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Cops can now search a suspect's phone

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## Healing after the Claresholm murder-suicide

Shayna Conway is on the road to recovery

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## MAYOR GOES OFF ON BILL 10

NENSHI OFFERS HIS TAKE ON ALBERTA'S RECENT LEGISLATION ON GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCES

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## TEENS ON SILVER SCREEN

Sarah Edington left, Maggie Ou, Jerry Tseng and Sameera Gumma are in the Robert Thirsk High School Film Club. The club is launching its first student-organized film festival. See story, page 6.

HELEN PIKE/METRO

# 'Dr. G' logs 15K calls to 311 – about graffiti

**Community steward, or menace?** Critics say prolific 311 user wasting taxpayer dollars

JEREMY NOLAIS
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He strolls inner-city sidewalks up to two hours a day, pausing every so often to snap a photo of graffiti.

Then, the man who calls himself Dr. G jots down the co-ordinates of his latest find and any additional details he believes will aid bylaw officers with finding the tag — a term for graffiti — when he logs it through the city's 311 service.

Dr. G says city managers have told him he averages 7,800 requests to remove graffiti annually — he figures his total complaint count to date is as high as 15,000.

"I think Calgary's a better place without graffiti, let's just put it that way," he said in an interview Thursday.

To quell skeptics, Dr. G provided Metro with a personal log of thousands of complaints, featuring addresses and notes about spots he claims were tattooed by taggers.

He also provided his real name on the basis that it not be printed, fearing backlash from perturbed business owners and urban graffiti enthusiasts alike.

"It's not just pothole patrol, there's legal ramifications to it," he said. "I report stuff that's going to cost people money, not only to get it cleaned up, but also for the taggers wondering, 'Why is this guy getting all of our tags removed?'"

There are some who often find themselves on the receiving end of Dr. G's graffiti gripes that have come to learn his true identity, including Kevin Schneider with City Print Distribution Inc.

The company he works for delivers numerous magazine and print publications in the city — including Metro — and the boxes where such items are stored are common targets for taggers.

But Schneider is not a big fan of the so-called doctor, stating he takes things too far and abuses a system set up in good faith by the city.

"It's harassment ... it's coming to the point where, yes, we'll get to them (the tags), we just don't have to do it as quickly as we like.

"It can't all be on (Dr. G's) schedule."

City officials said privacy legislation prevented them from confirming Dr. G's claims and said it would be impossible to put a dollar figure on what his apparent 7,800 requests cost every year, given that some incidents may require police intervention and some graffiti marks are more difficult to remove than others.

Metro did report in 2011 that it cost the city $4.47 on average just to field a 311 call, but Dr. G insists he primarily logs his complaints through the online offering. He said he does, on occasion, phone one of the "aces" at 311 when he needs a bit of cheering up.

"Somehow they're always in a good mood," he said.

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# Triple murder-suicide survivor learns to heal by helping others

**'It's not a weakness to need assistance.'**
Shayna Conway started Together We Can

YASMIN JASWAL
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Shayna Conway spent two and a half years struggling to find a reason to get out of bed every morning, contemplating suicide and being "sick and tired of living" the way she was.

Now, the 24-year-old Charlottetown native, who lived in Lethbridge in 2011, is on the road to recovery, and she's helping herself heal by helping others.

It was on Dec. 15, 2011 when Tabitha Stepple, Tanner Craswell, Mitchell MacLean and Conway were on their way from Lethbridge to Calgary when Stepple's ex-boyfriend forced them to stop their vehicle on the highway near Claresholm and shot all four passengers before turning the gun on himself. Conway was shot four times, and was the lone survivor.

Three months later, Conway returned to her home in Prince Edward Island, unable to walk and unable to cope.

"I just didn't care," Conway told Metro Wednesday. "I didn't care about my life, I didn't care about the relationships I had with anybody. I wasn't living. I felt like I was poison to everybody around me."

Then in September, Conway entered a post-traumatic stress rehabilitation program in Guelph, Ont. on the advice of her psychiatrist.

**Quoted**

**"Either I got help or I didn't live."**

**Shayna Conway,** lone survivor of the Claresholm shooting in 2011

"I was nervous, but I knew it was time. Either I got help or I didn't live," she said.

Conway said the program was the most amazing experience of her life. It gave her hope and helped her see beauty in life again.

She was told it would help her healing process if she volunteered at a local soup kitchen or animal shelter. She decided to go above and beyond the advice.

"It's a go big or go home thing with me," Conway said. "I've had the most amazing support ever over the past three years, and I just really wanted to be able to give some of that back and support my local community."

That's how Together We Can came about.

"People need other people," Conway said, adding that up until now, she had been trying to live independently and not accepting help from others.

"It's not a weakness to need assistance. Together We Can reminds me every day that we need to come together, and by doing that, we will all be further along."

Conway's first project is a holiday raffle, with money raised helping less fortunate families in her hometown have an unforgettable Christmas.

She has yet to count the donations, but she said so far the locals, as well as her friends and family in Alberta, have been extremely supportive.

Shayna Conway, right, decorated her Christmas tree with her best friend on Wednesday night. CONTRIBUTED

It all helps Conway, who said she still struggles with her emotions and suicidal thoughts, but has gotten better at accepting them and staying grounded.

It took her five months to walk with a cane, and two years to get to where she is now, walking with just a small limp. She can no longer use her left hand, and she has nerve and back pain, but she said she has come a long way physically. Her emotional recovery, however, is still a work in progress.

"The emotional roller coaster continues, but I see light at the end of the tunnel. I don't think that it will ever go away…It will just be different than before, and I have to accept that."

As for her three friends, Conway believes that her initiative is the best way she can honour them.

"I remember the lives that were lost that day every single day," said Conway, adding that she suffers from survivor's guilt. "I think Together We Can is a way that I can give back that they would be proud of me for doing. I think that if I'm going to be here, I'm going to try and be the best person I can be."

**Tabitha Stepple**

## *Foundation of Hope award*

Randy Stepple wants his daughter Tabitha, who was one of the victims in the 2011 Claresholm murder-suicide, to be remembered. That's why he set up the Tabitha Stepple Foundation of Hope award at Lethbridge College.

"We wanted something that was going to go on forever, so that she could become a legend, just be remembered in some sort of positive fashion," Stepple said.

After Tabitha's death, the community raised money to help support the family, who then decided to use the funds to create the scholarship in their daughter's honour.

The Stepples started out with $3,000, which was matched by Scotiabank. They needed a total of $10,000 to guarantee a scholarship that would be given out annually.

With donations from family, friends and local community members, they surpassed their goal and raised more than $12,000.

The award is worth $500, and Stepple said it will be given out for the first time this spring semester. The winning student must have a GPA of 3.8 in the Criminal Justice program.

YASMIN JASWAL/FOR METRO

1 NEWS

# Calgary principals tout benefits of new standardized report cards

**Education.** CBE cutting 'jargon' in response to parent feedback

City public-school leaders say student marks are being supplied to parents in real-time and they believe a shift to standardized report cards will provide a better picture of progress in the classroom.

This fall, the Calgary Board of Education has adopted a standardized set of "indicators" for grading students in kindergarten through Grade 9. Students are now rated as "excellent," "good," "basic" or "not meeting," when assessed on various skills. Previously, in some schools, especially those for older learners, students might have been awarded a letter or percentage grade. Report cards are now only issued twice a year instead of three times.

Calgary Board of Education area director Sydney Smith displays the new indicators that serve as grades on public-school report cards. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

But principals speaking about the changes in a news conference Thursday said such old-school grades were largely ambiguous and varied heavily from school-to-school.

Pat Thalheimer, principal at Nickle School, said the emphasis has actually moved away from report cards and more toward tracking student progress in real-time. The CBE now has programs that allow parents to log in and view their child's achievements whenever they see fit.

"We're doing way more communicating than we ever did when we had three or four report cards," he said. "Student marks are essentially live starting in October for the rest of the year … They (parents) don't have to wait for report cards; they don't have to call to make an appointment with a teacher to find out."

**Check your mailbox**

**The first round of 2014-15 report cards for Calgary Board of Education students are being sent home from Dec. 1 to Jan. 31.**

In high school, percentage grades remain as they are still relied on heavily by post-secondary institutions when it comes time to choose which applicants to admit.

Sylvie Monfette, a principal at Dr. E.P. Scarlett, said her staff are far more interested in "what kind of learners" they have coming into their school, rather than, say, what they scored in Grade 9 math.

"We were also looking at what kinds of students they are in terms of work habits, passion for the subject, aspirations for the career … We were looking for much more than a percentage mark," she said.

Critics of the new report-card model have deemed the indicators used as ambiguous, and some have said they don't properly prepare students for advanced education, where scoring high on exams and assignments is the name of the game.

But CBE officials said their organization is far from alone in Alberta in shifting its assessment focus. As well, area director Sydney Smith noted that the board abandoned previous report-card indicator terms like "evident" and "emerging" in response to feedback from parents. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO


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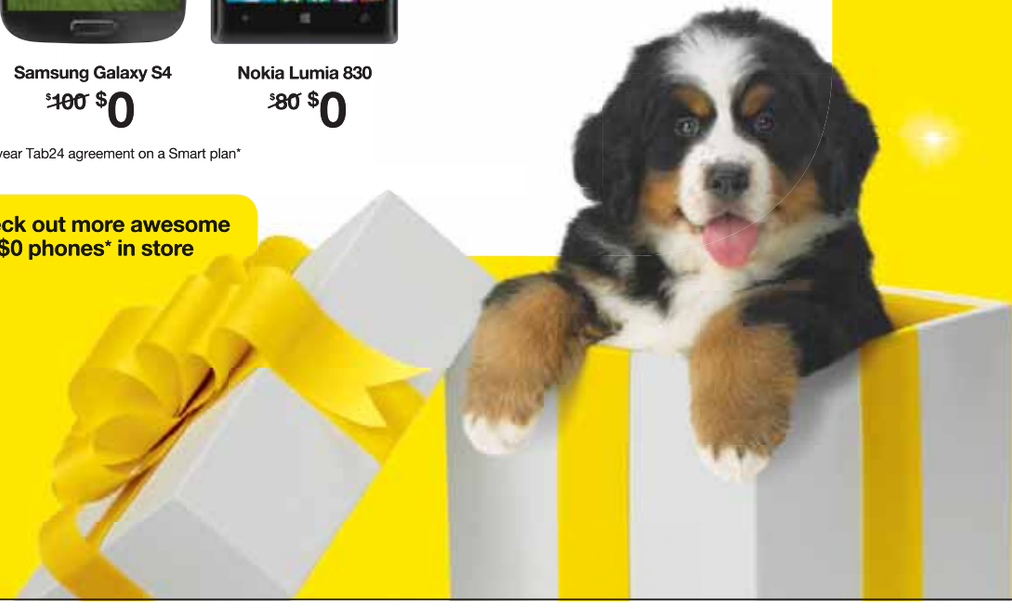

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# Student-run film fest seeking submissions

**Rising Star Film Festival.** New event to help both organizers and participants grow

HELEN PIKE
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There's a new film festival brewing in Calgary, and you won't guess who is behind the fresh-faced event.

These high school kids aren't couch potatoes, spending their spare time texting and gaming. No, the budding cinephiles of Robert Thirsk High School's film club are only taking a break from filming their own works to organize an event that other youths can take part in.

Rising Star Film Festival is run by teens and features teens. Submissions are open for youths in junior high and high school.

"It's quite a learning curve," said Jerry Tseng, student co-ordinator for the festival. Although he's an old pro at film, having shown his work at the Calgary International Film Festival, this is his first run at organizing something of this magnitude — and his whole team is in the same boat.

"You gotta learn how to talk to the right people; you gotta learn how to get sponsors; you have to learn how to divide up the work," he said.

The idea behind the festival is to help get students more interested in film and to push them in the right direction with feedback from a professional panel of judges. That's something Tseng said is invaluable for young filmmakers.

Members of the film club are also allowed to submit their own films. Sarah Edington, for instance, is planning to enter one of her own.

"I hope it does well, but even if it doesn't, it's been a really cool experience just to kind of organize a film festival and then make something for that film festival," Edington said. "I hope that if this does well, then next year maybe it will be even bigger."

Submissions have begun to roll in, but the group still isn't sure their project will be a success. They have the sponsors, they have the judges, but now what they need are eager students and creative submissions.

**Festival details**

**Pre-registration is due Dec. 19, and submissions must be in by Jan. 19**

- The festival will screen finalists on Feb. 5.
- Judges on the panel include: Lewin Webb, Mike Frislev, Terry Coles Kristie McLellan-Day and Larry Day.

First filmmakers, now festival organizers. From left: Sarah Edington, Maggie Ou, Jerry Tseng and Sameera Gumma are all members of the Robert Thirsk High School film club. HELEN PIKE/METRO

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# Ruling. Man who killed peace officer deemed not criminally responsible

A judge has ruled that a man who killed an Alberta peace officer who was investigating a dog complaint is not criminally responsible for the death.

Trevor Kloschinsky was charged with first-degree murder in the death of Rod Lazenby.

But Judge Beth Hughes ruled that Kloschinsky, 49, did not realize that what he was doing was wrong.

"Wrong means morally wrong judged by the everyday standard of the ordinary person. It does not mean legally wrong," she read Thursday from her decision.

"I find the evidence establishes that it was more likely than not that Mr. Kloschinsky's mental disorder made him incapable at the time he caused the death of Mr. Lazenby of knowing the act was wrong."

Doctors testified at Kloschinsky's trial that they found him "actively psychotic."

Lazenby, 62, died in August 2012 after going to Kloschinsky's rural property south of Calgary to investigate an animal complaint.

**Rod Lazenby**

**Lazenby was an RCMP officer for 35 years then retired in 2006 and moved to High River, Alta., to be closer to his daughter and her children.**

Lazenby was a retired RCMP officer who was responsible for enforcing bylaws in the Municipal District of Foothills near Calgary.

An autopsy found Lazenby was strangled and had 56 abrasions, contusions and lacerations to the face, head, neck, body and back. He also suffered numerous internal injuries.

Kloschinsky admitted he caused Lazenby's death. He acknowledged dropping the officer off, handcuffed and unconscious, at a southeast Calgary police station, where he told officers he had apprehended a "dog thief."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# THINK QUALITY OVER QUANTITY IN A POTENTIALLY LEAN CHRISTMAS

IN DEFENCE OF
Mike Morrison
calgary@metronews.ca

I'll confess that I'm no financial expert. But if you were to quickly look at the headlines recently, it's hard to tell how well Albertans are actually doing.

According to Statistics Canada, Alberta families currently have the highest median household income in Canada at $92,300, which is about $30,000 above the national average. That's clearly affecting our spending habits, because according to financial advisers at Deloitte, retail sales in Alberta are up by 8.53 per cent.

The only problem with those numbers? BMO reported earlier this summer that Albertans have the highest household debt in all of Canada. Actually, our average household debt is almost $50,000 higher than the rest of Canada. And this week the Bank of Canada said that housing prices in Canada could be overvalued by as much as 30 per cent.

And I haven't even mentioned that oil is now hovering around $60 a barrel.

I don't mean to be the bah humbug to your holiday rum and eggnog, but I think it's completely fair to say that a lot of Calgarians are going to be having a different Christmas than maybe they had imagined just a few weeks ago.

It's stark reality that many people in the 403 and 587 area codes have to face every few years, with the cyclical nature of a resource-based economy and all.

It can be hard to scale back at Christmas. Every commercial we see features living rooms packed to the crown moulding with gifts. Not to mention that in the coming weeks, our social media feeds will be inundated with our friends proclaiming that they're having the best Christmas ever, when in reality, most are no better off than you and I.

**Something, not everything**

**I'm not sure I could honestly say, "No, I don't want a single Christmas gift this year" and really mean it.**

Now, I don't need to tell you that Christmas has become over commercialized. We all know that, and I'm not sure I could honestly say, "No, I don't want a single Christmas gift this year" and really mean it. I mean, it's Christmas, who doesn't love at least getting something?

And that's it. For the most part, all the people in our lives would be happy with something, not everything.

I haven't been around kids a lot, but if they're anything like my cat, if they know you spent money on something, they're almost instantly uninterested. But if you drop a piece of scrap paper, they're amused for hours.

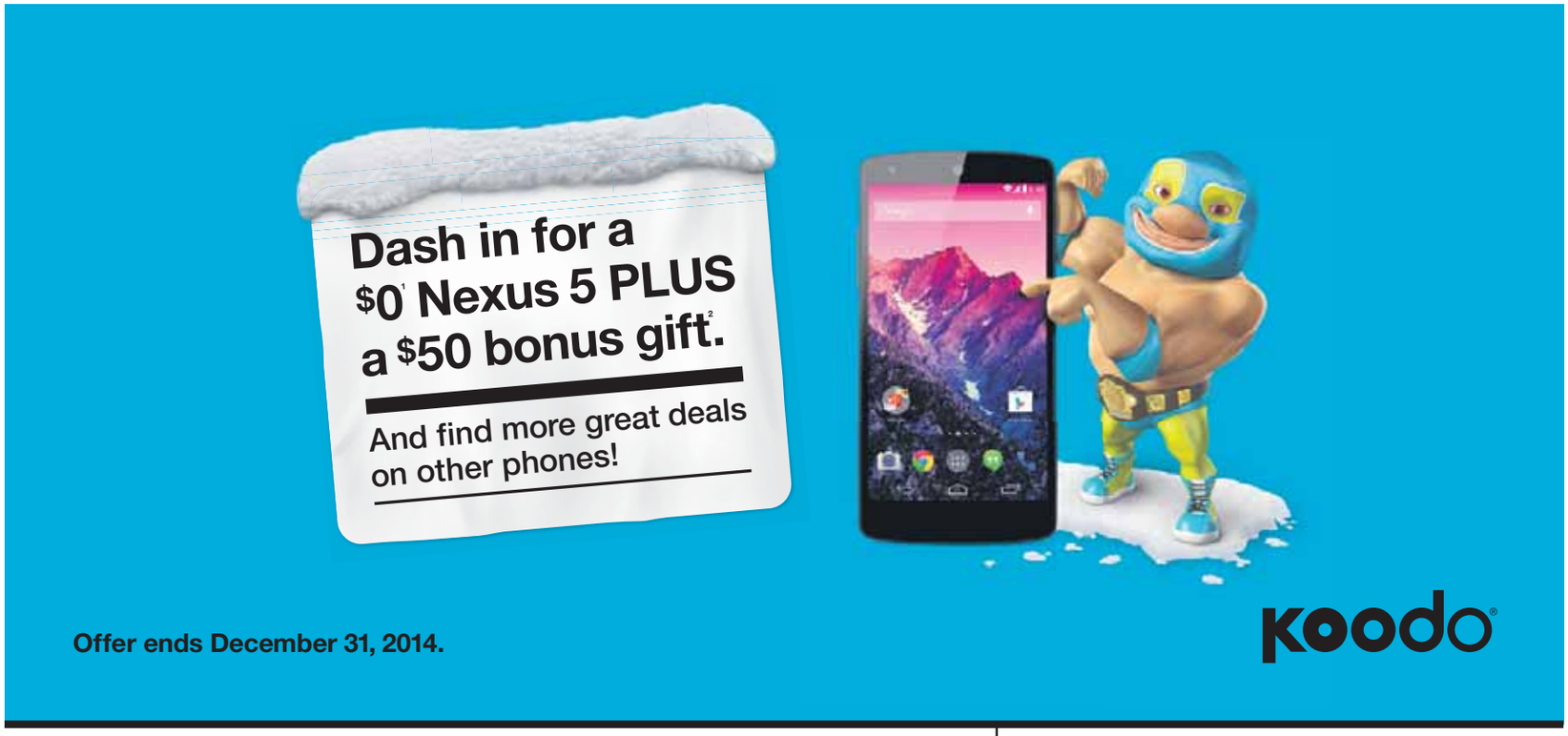
I'd be surprised if the kids, sisters, cousins, bosses, girlfriends, husbands or whoever you're buying a gift for this year are really upset over the quantity of gifts, rather than celebrating the quality of one.

And if they are, you probably shouldn't be buying a gift for them anyway.

Of course it's sad that so many Calgarians will have to scale back this year, but it also gives everyone a chance to also step back and remember that it really is the thought that counts.

So don't worry about buying the best gift ever, because in two months, it'll probably be forgotten about. Go for something that has emotional value, that's what will really matter during both the good and bad times.

MIKE MORRISON WRITES MIKE'S BLOGGITY BLOG AND TWEETS FROM @MIKESBLOGGITY

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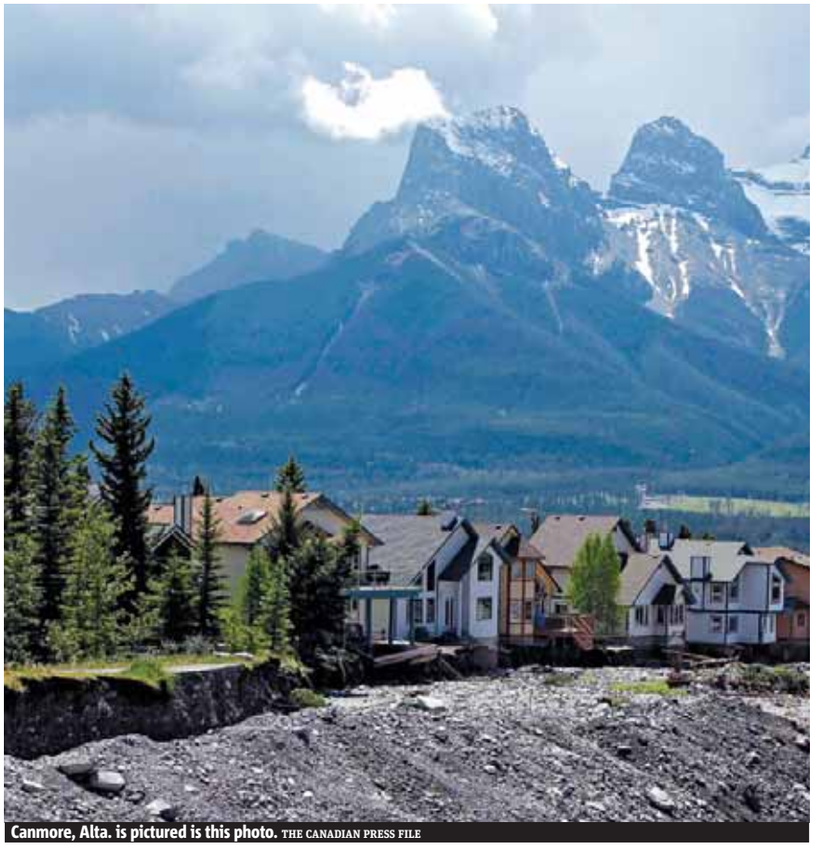

Canmore, Alta. is pictured is this photo. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

# Passersby lift truck from pinned cyclist

**'Miracle' rescue.** A number of people stopped at the scene of a crash in Canmore to help a trapped cyclist

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As he peered under the truck, Brad Blois could hardly make out the pinned cyclist.

But he could hear the moans.

A minute prior, a Ford Ranger had come up alongside and struck the two-wheeled traveller at the intersection of Canmore's Bow Valley Trail and Railway Avenue West.

The momentum sent the cyclist sliding underneath the vehicle and he was pinned by the engine.

Numerous motorists witnessed the crash, which occurred around 9:20 p.m. Tuesday night, and they raced to the scene.

"His (the cyclist's) feet weren't even hanging out under the bumper, he was right under there," recalled Blois, who runs a cab company in the town west of Calgary. "His face had lacerations all over it and he was just moaning.

"He sounded like he was in pain and he couldn't breathe."

Six initial witnesses — three men and and three women — began attempts to move the rig off the man, but it proved too heavy.

Then, a bus rolled up across the road and more strapping lads stepped off.

"I said, 'I need strong guys … get on the truck, grab a part, we've got to lift it,'" Blois said. "They came over, there was probably nine or 10 of us, and we lifted it up … the women pulled him straight out."

Blois said EMS arrived on scene seven or eight minutes later and rushed the cyclist to hospital.

**Quoted**

**"If it was later at night and there had just been one person there, there would have been nothing they could do."**

Brad Blois, one of the cyclist's rescuers

He was eventually airlifted to Calgary, but RCMP have since indicated that he's in stable condition.

Blois paid credit to his fellow rescuers.

"If it was later at night and there had just been one person there, there would have been nothing they could do and if the driver had tried to back off of him, I hate to say it, but it would have tore him apart," he said.

"I can't explain what it was like to see everybody pull together and do something like that. Just the urgency of the moment, with that fella needing their help, it was a miracle."

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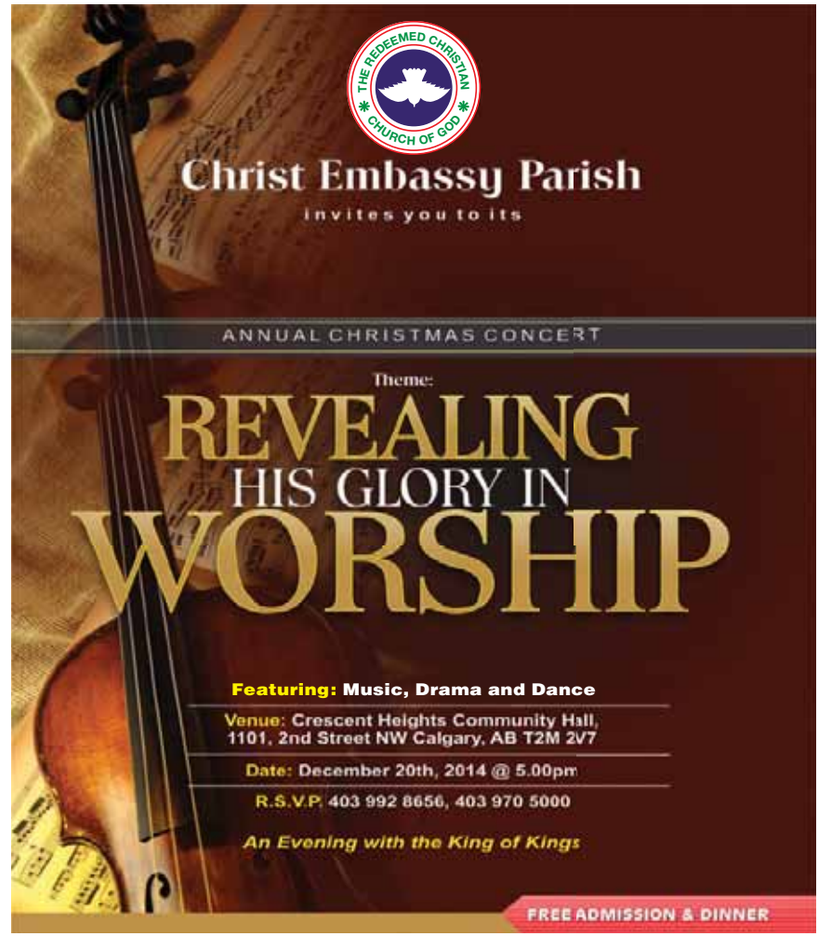

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## Southeast. Actions of Calgary police probed after chase ends in crash

Calgary police are investigating after two suspects fled on foot following a three-car crash in the southeast, and a police oversight body has also been brought in to probe police actions.

Around 11:30 a.m., officers were called to investigate a suspicious truck in the Douglasdale area.

When they arrived in the area, a witness told them the truck had left and was driving down 130 Avenue SE at high speed.

The officers followed the truck and tried to pull it over by turning on their lights, but the vehicle continued on, speeding through an intersection against a red light, according to police.

The truck then T-boned a car on the driver's door and struck another vehicle in the left-hand turning lane.

Police said the male driver and a female passenger fled from the truck on foot.

The man was apprehended, but the woman is still at large.

Two men in the car were transported to hospital in serious condition, but have since been upgraded to stable.

The passengers of the third vehicle were also transported to hospital as a precaution. METRO

**ASIRT**

**The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) were on scene because Calgary police officers were connected to the injury incident. ASIRT will be investigating police actions leading up to the crash.**

**Shannon Burgess**

### Calgary police widen search for missing person

Calgary police confirmed Thursday they are following new leads in the disappearance of Shannon Burgess.

Tips now suggest she may be in Vancouver or Toronto, so local officers are reaching out to police in those cities and broadening the search.

Shannon Burgess (née Madill), 25, was last seen in the early morning hours of Nov. 27 at her home in the 1900 block of Spiller Road SE.

Burgess, an actor, skipped her weekend rehearsals and engagements, and was last seen in her Inglewood apartment on Wednesday.

Burgess is in the midst of a divorce, and her sister Erin Madill said she may be in distress.

Police describe her as a Caucasian woman, weighing 130 pounds and standing five-foot-six.

She has red hair and green eyes, wears glasses and frequently travels to Edmonton to visit friends and for work.

Anyone with information is asked to call 403-266-1234 or Crime Stoppers.

HELEN PIKE/METRO

# Students at 'workplace school' need new home

**Wanted: Corporate partners.** Telus Sky project will see unique educational facility shut down

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Dozens of students who attend school in close proximity to their parents's downtown workplaces will soon be forced to move.

For 19 years, the Calgary Board of Education and Telus have partnered to offer the W.H. Cushing Workplace School on the main floor of the Len Werry building in the 100 block of 7 Avenue SW. But the telecommunications giant has informed the school board that redevelopment of the block as part of its Sky building project will see the school, believed to be one of a kind in Canada, shut down in July 2016.

CBE area director Calvin Davies said the workplace school was initially conceived as a boon for Telus employees with young children who wanted to stick close to mom and dad. The CBE leased the building floor for $1 annually but provided teachers and other staff to run it as a makeshift school.

Over time, more families outside of the company became aware of the school and signed on — this year about 100 kids in kindergarten to Grade 3 learn in the facility.

Davies said the benefits for parents include the ability to travel with their kids in the morning and evenings and stop in for a visit at lunchtime — even parent-council meetings are held over the lunch hour.

"That convenience of proximity is just wonderful for very many families," he said, adding that W.H. Cushing's students also frequent nearby venues like the Glenbow Museum, Olympic Plaza and the Eau Claire YMCA.

The school's model alleviated a great deal of stress for mother of two Roni Kirkness when it came time for her return to work. She has one child enrolled in Grade 2 at W.H. Cushing and another youngster she plans to sign up for next fall.

"It allows me to be so flexible," she said. "I can actually work a full day and if I want to go see them I can."

The CBE is now putting out the call for new corporate partners that may be interested in the schooling model for their own employees. "It really serves a great purpose for families and I think it would be an attractive opportunity for a company," Davies said.

**Est.**

**1995**

**The downtown-based W.H. Cushing Working School first opened in 1995.**

**Redevelopment planned as part of the Telus Sky building project, seen already underway here, will force the move of the W.H. Cushing Workplace School.** JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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An oil sands facility is reflected in a tailings pond near Fort McMurray, Alta. JEFF MCINTOSH / THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Mayor urges city to try and exhale

**Oil price drop.** Nenshi says businesses should try to work together to find new ways to keep building Calgary

ROBSON FLETCHER
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Calgary's economy is "about more than just the price of oil," Mayor Naheed Nenshi told a crowd of admittedly nervous business people Thursday, but if plunging prices of crude lead to a slowdown in the city's growth, that might not be the worst thing in the world.

"The world is not all sunshine and roses," Nenshi told a gathering of hundreds of members of the Calgary Chamber. "And I know for many of you in this room, the last six weeks or so have brought a number of extremely difficult decisions ... about the future of your companies, about the women and men you work with every single day."

The challenges that small and medium-sized businesses face are "more complex" than the latest trading price per barrel, the mayor added, and often include dealing with a "labour crunch" that has only been made worse by the city's record-setting population growth.

"If this time means a short pause in our unrelenting growth, then let's take the opportunity to exhale, to take a deep breath and work together to figure out how to keep building this great city," Nenshi said.

Calgary Chamber president and CEO Adam Legge said many members are feeling uncertain about what the sudden dip in oil prices will mean for their businesses, and how long the price trough will last.

"Budgets are being cut and people are revising plans for 2015," Legge said. "I think we can be optimistic that we'll get through this but the reality is there's some definite belt-tightening around corporate Calgary."

# Critics weigh in as fall legislature wraps up

Premier Jim Prentice's first tour of duty in the Alberta legislature was a disappointing "do-over" that foreshadows little vision and a hard swing to the political right, critics said Thursday.

"I don't see the leadership forward. I see the leadership back and sideways," said Liberal house leader Laurie Blakeman, a day after the legislature wrapped up its first session under Prentice. "It's definitely going hard right. He is chasing that right vote."

The house sat for 15 days over the past four weeks, passing legislation to clean up government while pulling back on controversial rules surrounding gay students setting up school friendship clubs.

Prentice took over in September from scandal-plagued former premier Alison Redford.

Prentice promised new rules to clean up government and on Wednesday the house passed Bill 2, the Alberta Accountability Act.

NDP Leader Rachel Notley says Prentice promised to put those changes in law, adding the watered down bill is "all hat, no cattle."

"I've seen a clear pattern of over-promising and under-delivering (by Prentice)," said Notley.

The session saw a renewed, pitched battle over the rights of students to form gay-straight alliances.

The alliances, known as GSAs, already exist in some public schools in Edmonton and Calgary.

Overshadowing the session was the steep drop in oil prices, taking the driver of Alberta's economy from a high of $100 US a barrel in the summer to $60 a barrel this week.

Prentice has promised to balance the budget in the current fiscal year but says hard times and budget belt tightening are coming if oil does not rebound.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Are bad drivers just plain lazy?

## Or are we giving out licences too easily?

Getting to the roots of our bad driving problem

YASMIN JASWAL
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Driving instructor Karen Watterson thinks Calgary's bad driving problem is the result of laziness. YASMIN JASWAL/FOR METRO

The woman who Calgary police have dubbed "Calgary's worst driver" may have some competition for the title, and some people are blaming the city's "easy" class 5 licensing exam.

Vicky Clark moved to Calgary last year, and she believes her son got his licence too easily.

"He tried in New Brunswick three times, and failed all three times," Clark said. "He came here expecting the same, and he drove around a block and they gave him his licence."

Clark believes this is one of the reasons why so many Calgarians "drive terribly."

"There's no wonder there are so many accidents, if you're giving people their licence who probably shouldn't have it," she said.

But not everyone is convinced that passing the driver's test is easy, nor is it the reason why the city is plagued with bad drivers.

Karen Watterson is a driving instructor at Derek Brown's Academy of Driving, and she believes that Calgary's bad drivers are a result of people getting lazy after getting their licence.

"The biggest thing I see with people is that they're not shoulder checking," Watterson said. "People who get their licences don't practice what we teach them. They're not continuing with the practising of good habits."

# Albertans more satisfied with health-care services

A new patient satisfaction survey shows that more Albertans are happy with the health-care services provided by the province.

The Health Quality Council of Alberta released its Satisfaction and Experience with Health Care Services Survey on Thursday. The survey showed a four per cent satisfaction increase from the 2010 survey, with 66 per cent of Albertans saying they were satisfied with their health-care services this time around.

AHS CEO Vickie Kaminski METRO FILE

All five Alberta Health Services zones saw their satisfaction rates increase, and 75 per cent of respondents rated AHS health-care services as good or excellent.

"We are very encouraged by the results of the HQCA survey," AHS president and CEO Vickie Kaminski said. She added that the survey was "a testament to the care provided each day" by front-line workers and clinicians, but "there is always room to get better."

Kaminski also said AHS will share the survey details within the organization to further improve health-care services. METRO

# More businesses supporting secondary suites

With more members of Calgary's business community coming forward to support more broadly permitted secondary suites, a grassroots group that has been lobbying for the cause for months is cautiously optimistic change is coming soon.

"Let's just say we're hopeful," Greg Miller of Calgarians for Secondary Suites said Thursday.

His comments came after Calgary Chamber president Adam Legge spoke out again in favour of opening up "a range of housing product at a range of affordability," including secondary suites, in order to help address the labour crunch many business are facing.

"Housing is a huge business issue right now, in terms of our ability to attract and retain labour," Legge told reporters. "If we're looking … to have 200,000 more workers in this city over the next six years, they need a place to live."

Legge, along with executives from WestJet, Fiasco Gelato, and "a large cross-section of Calgary businesses," is planning to make another announcement in support of the new "secondary suites approval mechanism" that's due up for a vote at Monday's city council meeting.

Miller expects the expressions of support for secondary suites from social agencies, student groups, average citizens, and the business community will carry weight with swing votes on council.

"I have to believe there's enough broad support, citywide, across a whole range of different groups that councillors have to be listening," he said.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

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St. Joseph High School Student Lauren White has kicked off a petition to urge the city's Catholic School Board to reconsider its position on Gay-Straight Alliances. LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO

# Board needs to change tune on GSAs: Trustee

**'Not sex clubs.'**
Students call on trustees to trust to know what they want

LEAH HOLOIDAY
Metro in Edmonton

Outrage from parents and teachers has prompted one of Edmonton's Catholic School trustees to question the district's stance on Gay-Straight Alliances.

The province's Catholic school boards have collectively agreed to hold back on encouraging students to start GSA clubs in school, opting instead to support inclusive clubs that everyone could be a part of.

But according to ECS Trustee Patricia Grell, that's not fair to the district's LGBTQ students.

Grell — who admitted she was ignorant to the concept of GSAs at first — said she was prompted to investigate the issue further after receiving a deluge of complaints from district parents and teachers about the board's position.

"'Appalled' was the word that the majority of people used as a description," said Grell, referencing the reaction from the community about comments made by ECS board chair Debbie Engel to media about GSAs.

Grell, who recently penned a blog post about the clubs, said the district needs to reconsider their stance on GSAs to consider what's best for vulnerable students.

"I … learned that they are not sex groups or dating clubs but "identity clubs" for students who identify as LGBTQ and their straight friends," Grell wrote on her website.

Grell said the district not only needs to change the way it thinks about GSAs, but to approach the subject in a way unique to the Catholic system.

"If we were to have GSAs in our school, we certainly would have them in a Catholic perspective," she said.

**GSA school alliances**

**Alberta's conservative government introduced Bill 10 in the fall seating that allowed for school boards to have final say on GSAs, but offered students an avenue to challenge their decision.**

- **Temporarily on hold.** After an outcry from Albertans, Premier Jim Prentice put a hold on the bill, sighting more research and dialogue needed to happen before it could receive third reading.
- **Third reading.** Bill 10 will be brought back for third reading in the upcoming spring session

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## Suffield. Hunters allowed to kill 500 more elk

Alberta is targeting more elk in the southeastern part of the province in hopes of reducing a growing herd that has been damaging crops around a military base.

Alberta Environment and the Department of National Defence have agreed to let hunters kill up to 500 additional female elk at Canadian Forces Base Suffield in February.

Earlier this year, Alberta issued tags to allow hunters to kill as many as 660 female elk on the base this fall.

"We really need to get the numbers of those animals down to a more manageable level," Duncan MacDonnell, a spokesman for the provincial government, said Thursday.

About 200 elk were brought to the base in the 1990s to introduce grazing animals to the region, but the herd has since swollen to between 6,500 and 8,000 animals.

The elk live on the base but jump fences to dine on and trample crops.

Ranchers have been lobbying the provincial and federal governments to hold a roundup to reduce the herd.

Along with crop damage, some ranchers are worried the elk could spread diseases such as tuberculosis and brucellosis to cattle.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Another option**

- Last summer, a group including ranchers and community leaders pitched a plan to humanely capture more than 1,500 elk each year, move the animals to an elk farm and slaughter them over time at a provincially approved abattoir. The meat would be donated to food banks.
- The province said no to the idea in October, citing concerns about costs and the environment.

# Debate around Bill 10 'ridiculous': Nenshi

**Gay-straight alliances.** Mayor thanks premier for putting brakes on controversial legislation

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Mayor Naheed Nenshi, speaking Thursday to hundreds of members of the Calgary Chamber on the state of the city's economy as oil prices plummet, paused from that topic for a five-minute digression on Alberta's recent legislation on gay-straight alliances.

After Bill 10 received two readings in the Alberta legislature, Premier Jim Prentice put the controversial legislation on "pause" last week, in the wake of public outcry across the province.

Here's an abridged version of what Nenshi had to say about the whole affair.

"I pitch this city across Canada … but, I've got to tell you, the last couple of weeks in the provincial legislature have not made my job any easier.

"This damaging and hateful debate that we've been having in the provincial legislature around Bill 202 and Bill 10 does nothing but reinforce negative stereotypes.

"Two weeks ago, a member of the legislative assembly got up and proposed a bill that said any kid in school can set up a club and suddenly our provincial legislators — in a time when the price of oil is dropping, in a time when our infrastructure needs are extraordinary, in a time when we have urban and regional issues that we've got to get more done on — spent two weeks talking about what club a kid in school can join or not.

**Reinforcing negative stereotypes**

**"We would end up having international attention toward what kinds of hillbillies we are."**

**Mayor Naheed Nenshi,** on Alberta's Bill 10

"How ridiculous is that? … We know that these clubs prevent suicide, among a group where one-third of the kids attempt suicide, and we have the gall to say: 'We have to balance off your rights.' That your rights don't include the right to be safe? To have support to prevent you from attempting suicide?

"What kind of a world do we live in here?

"So thank you very much to the premier — who is a good guy — for putting the brakes on this thing, and putting this thing on pause, because what was happening was dangerous. By saying not all rights are absolute, the government seemed to be saying that our children don't have the right to be safe. That's not right. That's not fair."

"Today is the day for us to say, straight out, that we are indeed welcoming, that we are indeed working hard to make sure that every single person can succeed here, because that is the core of our strength."

The crowd applauded.

**Verbatim**

For the full text of Nenshi's speech, visit metronews.ca.

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FN45; METRO CALGARY

Mayor Naheed Nenshi speaks to members of the Calgary Chamber on Thursday at the Telus Convention Centre. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

# Meth bust. RCMP arrest three people, seize cash

The Calgary RCMP's Serious and Organized Crime team arrested three people and seized money and crystal methamphetamine on Tuesday.

The team found more than one pound of crystal meth, which is equal to approximately 5,000 individual does. RCMP also seized $120,000 following the arrests.

Police have charged Gursharanjit Singh Parmar, Akwinder Kaur Dayal, and Trevor Louis Honish with possession for the purpose of trafficking methamphetamine and possession of the proceeds of crime.

All three will appear in Calgary Provincial Court on Friday. METRO

Meth seized by Calgary RCMP. CONTRIBUTED

Seeking public's help

## Robbery suspect sought by police

The Calgary police are asking for the public's help in locating a man responsible for robbing a CIBC bank on the 100 block of Shawville Blvd S.W. on Wednesday.

The suspect is described as a Caucasian male, around 6 feet tall with stubble. He was wearing black pants, a black hoodie, a black toque and black-framed glasses at the time of the incident.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 403-428-8787 or Crime Stoppers at 800-222-8477. METRO

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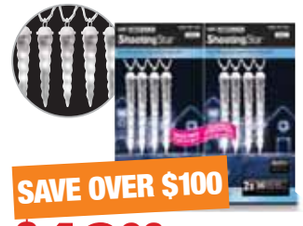

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New policy

## Doctors against abortion now required to refer patients

Doctors who morally oppose providing abortion services or prescribing birth control will be required to refer patients to other physicians, according to a draft policy paper just released by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.

The document reflects a struggle to balance the fundamental rights of patients with respect for doctors' personal values and beliefs.

"We feel this is an excellent balance of human rights and constitutional rights," Dr. Marc Gabel, chair of the College's policy working group, said Wednesday in an interview.

The draft policy also states that a doctor is expected to ensure emergency care, even when that conflicts with the physician's beliefs. Gabel added that a doctor who balked at following the code would face professional misconduct sanctions. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

# SCOC imposes rules on cellphone searches

**Privacy at issue.** SCOC rules police have some rights to search cellphones without warrants, but must follow rules

A divided Supreme Court of Canada ruled Thursday that police can conduct a limited search of suspect's cellphone without getting a search warrant, regardless of password protection — but they must follow strict rules.

The precedent-setting ruling, reached by a narrow 4-3 margin, found that the search must be directly related to the circumstances of a person's arrest and that investigators must keep detailed records of the search.

In a dissenting opinion, the three opposing justices said the police should be required to obtain a search warrant in all cases, except rare instances where there is a danger to the public, police or the evidence.

It is the first Supreme Court ruling on cellphone privacy, a 21st-century issue that has already spawned a series of divergent lower court decisions.

The high court dismissed the appeal of the 2009 armed robbery conviction of Kevin Fearon, who argued that police violated his charter rights when they searched his cellphone without a warrant after he'd robbed a Toronto jewelry kiosk.

The court agreed that the police had in fact breached Fearon's rights, but said the evidence against him on his cellphone should not be excluded.

"The police simply did something that they believed on reasonable grounds to be lawful and were proven wrong, after the fact, by developments in the jurisprudence," Justice Thomas Cromwell wrote for the majority.

Cromwell said the court was trying to strike a balance between the demands of effective law enforcement and the public's right to be free of unreasonable searches and seizures under Section 8 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

More SCOC news

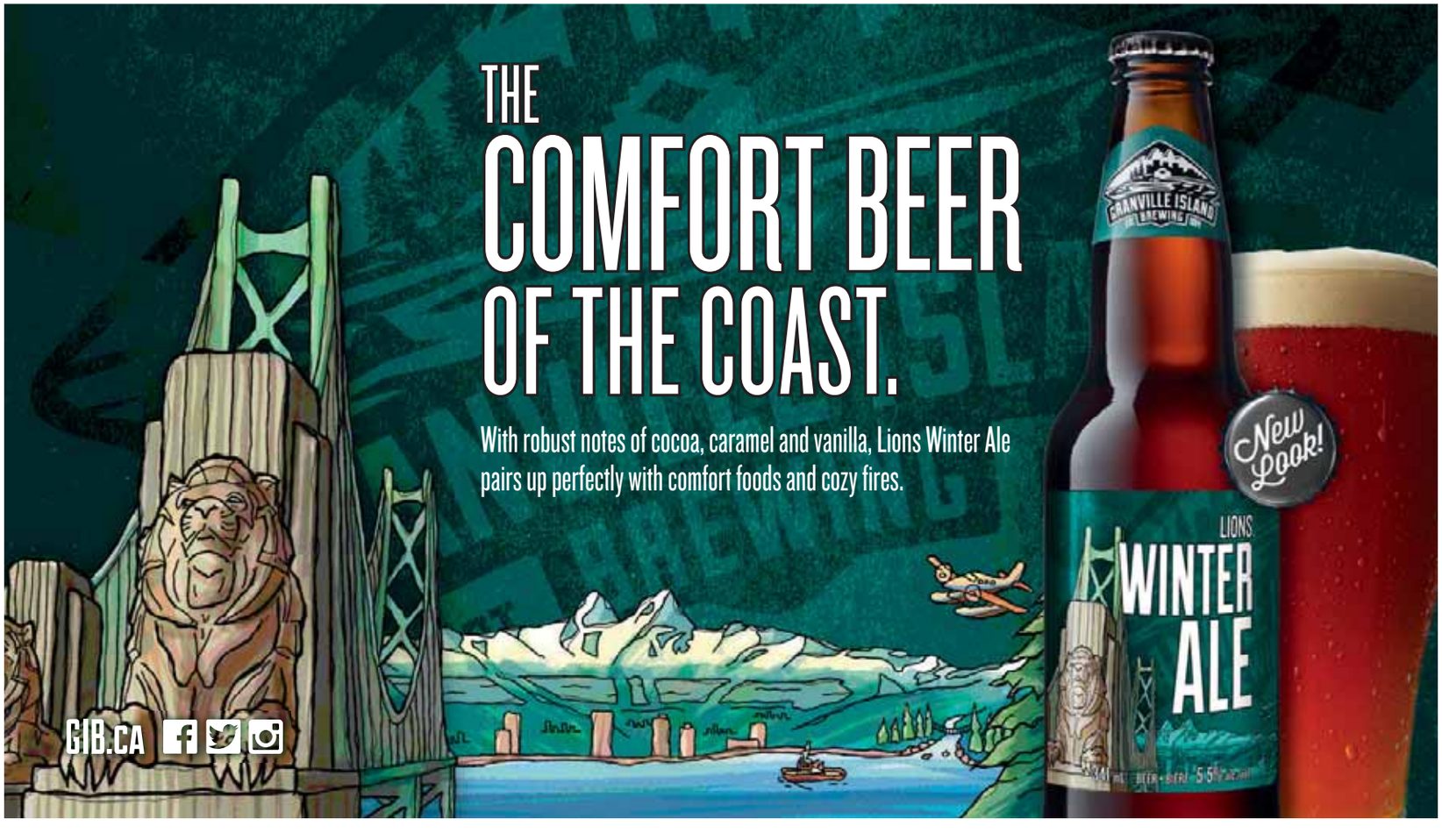
## *Khadr decision stuns lawyers*

A decision by the Supreme Court of Canada to hear the federal government's challenge of Omar Khadr's youth status stunned his lawyers on Thursday. Khadr had already agreed to remain in a federal prison even though Alberta's top court ruled he should be moved to a provincial facility.

"I'm stunned," Nate Whitling, one of Khadr's lawyers, said after the top court's decision. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Magnotta trial resumes Monday

Diran Lin, father of Jun Lin, arrives to hear the closing arguments at the murder trial for Luka Rocco Magnotta on Thursday in Montreal. The Crown has completed its final arguments at the trial and is asking the jury to find Magnotta guilty of first-degree murder in the slaying and dismemberment of Jun Lin. The jurors have been sent home until Monday, when the judge will give them their instructions before they are sequestered. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS



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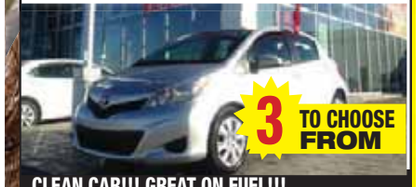

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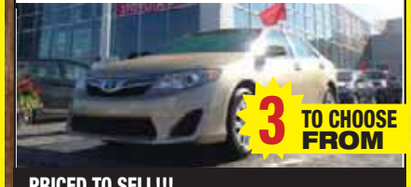

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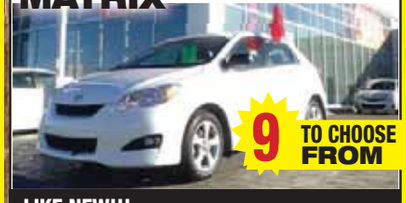

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## Liberia. Ottawa NGO looks to raise $60K for literacy

The Ebola epidemic has emptied classrooms in Liberia and kept students cooped up at home for months.

So an Ottawa NGO is preparing over 10,000 home schooling kits to help elementary school kids learn to read while they are stuck indoors.

CODE — a charity supporting literacy in Canada and worldwide — has been working to get Liberia's education system back on its feet since the disastrous effects of the 15-year, on-again-off-again civil war that killed about 300,000 people in the country and Sierra Leone.

When the Ebola crisis broke out about 10 months ago, the country and education system were "very ill prepared to address this newest crisis," said CODE executive director Scott Walter.

About 5,000 primary schools have closed across the country.

"At least with the civil war, they knew who the enemy was. They could see the enemy," he said. "With Ebola, it's an unseen enemy and it could come from anywhere."

CODE has partnered with the WE-CARE Foundation to create "Home School Kits of Hope" filled with children's books, school supplies and information pamphlets on Ebola.

So far CODE has raised about $40,000 for home school kits in Liberia, with the goal of raising $60,000 by Dec. 24.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO IN OTTAWA

**Ebola vaccine**

### Trials halted after subjects report pain

Swiss researchers have temporarily halted a clinical trial of a Canadian-made Ebola vaccine after seeing an unexpected side-effect in a few people who received the serum. Four of 59 people vaccinated in the Geneva-based trial reported pain in the joints of their extremities — fingers and toes — between 10 and 15 days after receiving the shot, researcher Dr. Angela Huttner said in an interview.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# CF-18 replacement decision can be delayed until 2025

**F-35 debate.** While the government can delay its decision, it must still quickly decide what will replace the aging jets: Report

A pilot positions a CF-18 Hornet at the CFB Cold Lake on Oct. 21. A market analysis into which fighter jet could replace the CF-18s tells the Harper government it can postpone a decision and keep flying the current fleet until 2025.
JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A long-awaited market analysis into which fighter jet could replace the CF-18s tells the Harper government it can postpone a decision and keep flying the current fleet until 2025, but it will cost roughly $400 million.

The report by a panel of independent experts, part of a package of documents put before the federal cabinet last summer, warns the aging jets should not be flown much past that date because it would be an unacceptable, costly risk.

All of the research was done to help the Harper government decide whether to purchase the F-35 stealth fighter, or hold an open competition.

"No decision has been made on the purchase of replacements for the CF-18s," Public Works Minister Diane Finley told the Commons prior to the release of the panel report and annual F-35 cost assessment.

Earlier this year, Defence Minister Rob Nicholson's office announced the CF-18s would get life extension upgrades to keep them flying for another 11 years, but no details on cost or risks were released.

The panel's analysis looked at four different fighter jets and found each is equally capable of meeting Canada's needs, although the Harper government and the air force have insisted for years the F-35 was the only choice to replace the CF-18s.

**Replacing the CF-18**

**In order to smoothly phase out Canada's fleet of CF-18s, replacements will have to be chosen by 2020, according to the panel's report.**

- **The big decision.** The federal government would need at least three years to run an open competition, while F-35 orders need three years lead time according to the jet's manufacturer.
- **Maintenance costs.** While the lifespan of the CF-18 can be extended, pushing it towards 2030 would be costly, with the reliability of key systems declining quickly.

The report says the CF-18's relevance will decline rapidly after 2025, and will cost $1.5 billion in maintenance leading up to 2030. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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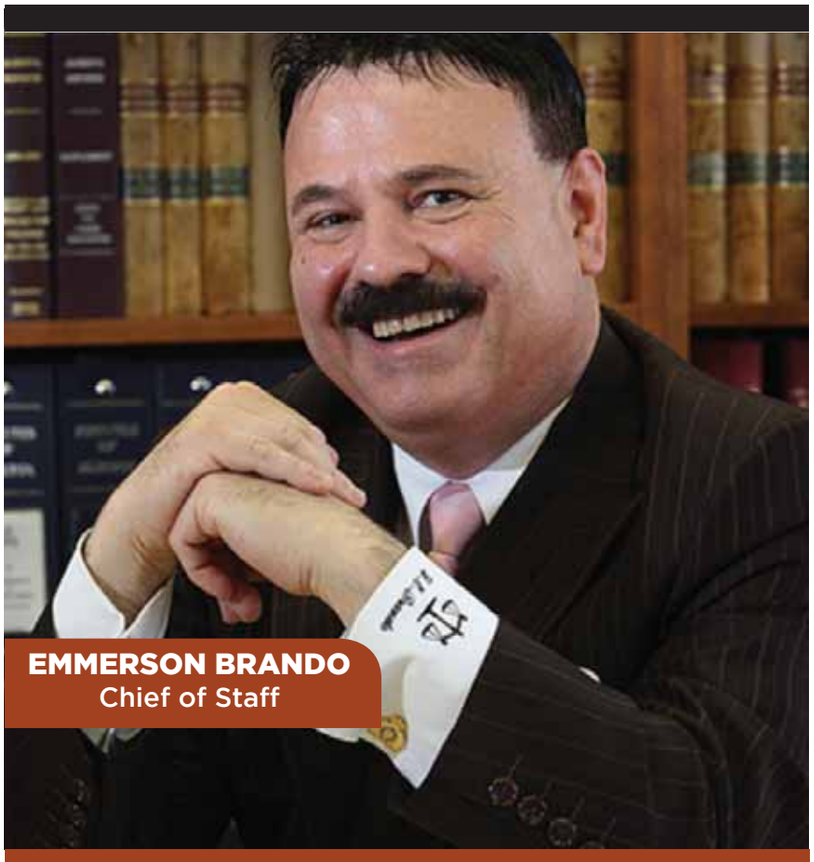


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# Publication ban case adjourned

**Dartmouth.** Man charged with releasing the name of a sexual assault victim granted time to review penalties

The lawyer for a man charged with violating a publication ban in a sexual assault trial in Halifax has been granted time to hear what penalties the Crown is considering.

Judge Patrick Curran granted the adjournment Thursday in Dartmouth provincial court, requiring David Winslow Sparks to return on Jan. 12. Sparks, 62, was charged in September after police alleged he posted on social media the name of the victim in the sexual assault case. The identity of the victim is protected by a publication ban.

In July defence lawyer Lyle Howe was sentenced to three years in prison after being found guilty by a jury of sexually assaulting a 19-year-old woman in March 2011. Howe's lawyer has filed an appeal in that case.

Sparks is represented by Howe's wife, Laura McCarthy, who is also a defence lawyer.

McCarthy said outside court she's unclear what potential penalty the Crown is seeking and needs that information before advising her client on a plea.

"We adjourned ... to allow time to speak with the Crown and see what kind of resolution can be reached," she said.

"You don't want somebody making an uninformed decision." THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Details**

**Outside court, David Winslow Sparks said the alleged offence was a post on Facebook and he's eager to deal with the matter in court and move on.**

- "I'm anxious to get it over with," he said.

## Province scraps WWII-era law used at G20

G20 summit protesters clash with riot police in downtown Toronto on June 26, 2010. A Second World War law used by police to make mass arrests during the G20 summit was officially scrapped Thursday and replaced with new legislation. The Public Works Protection Act was secretly revived by the Liberal government prior to the G20, and then used by police to "kettle" or detain large groups in the streets, and to arrest 1,100 people during the summit. Ombudsman Andre Marin concluded it was opportunistic and inappropriate to use a "war measure" to give police extra authority, and said police compounded matters by misrepresenting the reach of their new powers. The law designed to protect electrical generating facilities from Nazi saboteurs in the 1940s was replaced by a new bill that enhances security at courthouses, electrical generating stations and nuclear power plants. DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# Commemorating the Christmas Truce

## **Soccer.** Moment of WWI peace, goodwill memorialized by monument in Belgium

On the side of a windswept field covered with scorpion weed, a simple wooden cross marks a unique event in soccer history.

At its base, amid wreaths of poppies, lie a smattering of balls and various club pennants, all in remembrance of the Christmas Truce of 1914.

A century ago on Christmas Day, German and British enemies left their World War I trenches and headed into no man's land in a few scattered locations on the Western Front for an unofficial truce among soldiers. Some eyewitness accounts say they were highlighted by something as remarkable as a few soccer kick-abouts.

"Suddenly a Tommy came with a football," wrote Lt. Johannes Niemann of Germany, referring to a British soldier. "Teams were quickly established for a match on the frozen mud, and the Fritzes beat the Tommies 3-2."

If not fully fledged matches, other soldier's diaries and various reports also spoke of balls being kicked about in friendship.

"A huge crowd was between the trenches. Someone produced a little rubber ball so of course a football match started," Lt. Charles Brockbank of Britain's Cheshire Regiment wrote in his diary, which is part of the Greater Game exhibit at the National Football Museum in Manchester, U.K.

The proponents of the sport have cherished that day as historic proof that there is little that can better bridge man's differences than soccer.

This Christmas, the British supermarket chain Sainsbury's has taken the idea and turned it into a blockbuster ad, showing opposing soldiers living the truce amid a soccer match at the centre of the heart-tugging, some say sanitized, view of that Great War day.

It is that unique mood of brotherhood that Michel Platini, the president of the Union of European Football Associations, planned to underscore on Thursday when he unveiled a Christmas Truce monument on the former battlegrounds known as Flanders Fields in western Belgium, scene of some of the most horrendous killing.

"Together, they performed simple acts of reconciliation, culminating in the discovery of a shared language: Football," Platini wrote to European Union leaders early this year.

For those involved, it was most of all a yearning for a sense of normalcy, however momentarily, that pushed them over the edge of their trenches, unarmed.

The war started on Aug. 4 when the German invasion of Belgium kicked off a series of events. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UEFA president Michel Platini, right, and the mayor of Ploegsteert, Gilbert Deleu, listen to speeches after unveiling a World War I Christmas Truce monument in Ploegsteert, Belgium, on Thursday. VIRGINIA MAYO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Footballers in the war**

**Football (soccer) players had been involved in the fighting from the early days.**

- Of the 5,000 professional players at the time, about 2,000 joined the armed forces. Sometimes whole lineups signed up at the same time to create what became known as the Footballers' Battalions.
- London club Clapton Orient, now known as Leyton Orient, alone had about 40 players and staff joining the war effort, all following the steps of their team captain.

## **Air Serbia.** Airline to fly between Belgrade, Zagreb

Air Serbia says it will resume flights between Belgrade and Zagreb on Friday after a 23-year break.

Flights between the Serbian and Croatian capitals were discontinued in 1991 because of the war between the two former Yugoslav republics.

The Serbian national carrier, partly owned and operated by United Arab Emirates' Etihad Airways, says it will offer two daily flights. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Oct. 25, 2013, photo, new cabin crew members stand by an Airbus A319-100 aircraft in Air Serbia livery at Belgrade's Nikola Tesla Airport in Serbia. DARKO VOJINOVIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

**Push for two states**

### France recognizes Palestinian state

France's Senate has narrowly approved a resolution asking the government to recognize a Palestinian state, in hopes of lasting Mideast peace.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Palestinian state**

### Israel angered by Irish decision

Israel has slammed the decision of the Irish parliament to adopt a non-binding resolution supporting an independent Palestinian state.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NE122G614

# CIA chief recounts horrors of Sept. 11 in defence of tactics

**Senate torture report.** Says CIA's interrogation practices did not lead to a safer America

CIA Director John Brennan defended his agency Thursday from accusations in a Senate report that it used inhumane interrogation techniques against terrorist suspects with no security benefits to the U.S. But he stopped short of claiming that the tough methods saved thousands of American lives.

Brennan conceded that it is impossible to know whether the detainees provided crucial information because of the "enhanced interrogation techniques." He said the cause-and-effect relationship is "unknown and unknowable." He conceded unauthorized and in some cases abhorrent methods were used against captives, but asserted the CIA "did a lot of things right" in a time when there were "no easy answers."

Brennan opened a rare news conference by recounting the horrors of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, his agency's determination to prevent another such assault and the fact that CIA officers were the first to fight and early to die in the Afghanistan war.

His remarks were part of a campaign by the CIA and several of its past leaders to discredit a five-year Senate investigation into the CIA's harrowing interrogation practices after 9-11, concerned that the historical record may define them as torturers instead of patriots and expose them to legal action around the world.

The Senate intelligence committee's report doesn't urge prosecution for wrongdoing, and the Justice Department has no interest in reopening a criminal probe. But the threat to former interrogators and their superiors was underlined as a UN special investigator demanded those responsible for "systematic crimes" be brought to justice, and human rights groups pushed for the arrest of key CIA and Bush administration figures if they travel overseas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Transfers in progress**

## *Closing Guantanamo*

Fed up with the stalled progress toward closing the Guantanamo Bay detention centre, President Barack Obama summoned top administration officials to the White House for an unusual meeting last month to make it clear he wanted action. The president addressed the team at length, emphasizing why he wants to shut down the detention facility for terrorism suspects, according to administration officials familiar with the meeting, which wasn't on Obama's public schedule. The presidential lecture was the culmination of months of White House frustrations with his own administration's inaction. Since then, a dozen prisoners have been transferred overseas.

CIA Director John Brennan gestures during a news conference at CIA headquarters in Langley, Va., Thursday. Brennan defended his agency from accusations in a Senate report that it used inhumane interrogation techniques against terrorist suspects with no security benefits to the nation. PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Twin explosions kill about 20 in central Nigerian city

Twin explosions rocked downtown Jos in central Nigeria and killed about 20 people on Thursday, witnesses said.

The blasts occurred as store owners were shutting their shops and Muslims were preparing for evening prayers.

Witnesses said one blast went off at an outdoor food stand and the other at the nearby entrance to Terminus market in the centre of the city. They spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Soldiers and police were ferrying the wounded to hospitals.

In May, twin car bombs in Jos' Terminus marketplace killed at least 130 people.

Those attacks were blamed on Islamic extremists from the Boko Haram group and were seen as an attempt to ignite fighting between Muslims and Christians. Jos is in Nigeria's Middle Belt, where the mainly Muslim north and predominantly Christian south meet and violence between the two groups occurs often.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Thursday's attack but it bore all the signs of Boko Haram.

In northern Kano, Nigeria's second largest city, police commissioner Aderenle Shinaba told reporters they safely detonated a bomb hidden in a handbag. The bag had been planted Thursday in a supermarket favoured by foreigners.

Separately, police in Kano arrested a teenage girl wearing a jacket primed with explosives, according to an officer who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to give information to reporters.

Several bombs in recent months have been detonated by female suicide bombers, raising fears that Boko Haram is using some of the hundreds of kidnapped girls and young women for its attacks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Cuban rappers used by U.S. agency

**USAID.** American agency used Cuba's hip-hop scene to undermine the state, create youth advocates for social change: AP

Over two years a U.S. agency secretly infiltrated Cuba's underground hip-hop movement, recruiting unwitting rappers to spark a youth movement against the government, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The idea was to use Cuban musicians "to break the information blockade" and build a youth network seeking "social change," documents show.

The program is laid out in documents involving Creative Associates International, a Washington, D.C., contractor paid millions of dollars to undermine Cuba's communist government. The thousands of pages include contracts, emails, preserved chats, budgets, expense reports, PowerPoints, photographs and passports.

Contractors involved in the hip-hop operation would recruit scores of Cuban musicians for projects disguised as cultural initiatives but really aimed at boosting their visibility and encouraging a movement of fans to challenge the government.

One target was Los Aldeanos, a hip-hop group frustrated by official pressure and widely respected by Cuban youth for its hard-hitting lyrics.

Creative used a Panama front company and a Lichtenstein bank to hide the money trail from Cuba, where thousands of dollars went to fund a TV program starring Los Aldeanos. It would be distributed on DVDs to circumvent Cuba's censors.

Then the Colombian rock star Juanes announced a September 2009 concert in the heart of Havana. Creative managers held a two-day strategy session on how to persuade Juanes to let Los Aldeanos perform with him.

They never shared the stage, but Juanes publicly thanked the rappers after the concert. The contractors believed this measure of public support would help protect the group against the government; however, Juanes' spokesman John Reilly said Wednesday the concert had no political agenda, and that Juanes had no knowledge of what the other artists did.

In this Nov. 30 photo, Cuban fans sing during a hip-hop concert in Havana. Documents obtained by The Associated Press show that a U.S. agency infiltrated Cuba's hip-hop scene, recruiting unwitting rappers to spark a youth movement against the government. RAMON ESPINOSA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

About a month later Los Aldeanos' frontman, Aldo Rodriguez, was detained for illegal possession of a computer.

Creative contractors at one point contacted a sex education institute run by the daughter of President Raul Castro, Mariela, who was contacted to be part of Serbia's EXIT Festival, despite organizers — such as Serbian contractor Rajko Bozic — also running the anti-Castro hip-hop operation.

Cuban officials ultimately discovered what was going on once contractors paid $15,000 to underwrite a music festival run by singer Pablo Milanese.

Over the next four months Bozic was detained coming into Havana with a potentially incriminating USB stick, generating anxiety among contractors. Bozic cut his trip short and told contractors he wouldn't be returning any time soon.

In August 2010 Los Aldeanos took the stage at an independent music festival and criticized the government and police. The group later moved to South Florida, citing the government was making it difficult to work.

On six occasions a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) contractor said Cuban authorities detained or interrogated people involved in the program, confiscating computers containing information that unwittingly jeopardized the safety of numerous Cubans; not realizing they were part of a clandestine U.S. operation. The Associated Press investigation found that despite this, USAID put themselves and their targets at risk.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Compromised culture**

## *USAID plan hurt hip-hop*

The operation compromised Cuba's vibrant hip-hop culture, which has produced some of the hardest-hitting grassroots criticism since Fidel Castro came to power in 1959. Artists that USAID contractors tried to promote left the country or stopped performing amid pressure from the Cuban government, and one of the island's most popular independent music festivals was taken over after officials linked it to USAID.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# CBC to trim local TV newscasts

**Five-year strategy.** Changes are part of plan to shift priorities from TV and radio to mobile and digital

CBC will shorten all local supper-hour newscasts to 30 or 60 minutes and will broadcast Radio One morning shows on TV beginning next fall.

The changes are part of a five-year strategy to shift priorities from radio and television to mobile and digital announced by the public broadcaster in June.

Currently, most supper-hour newscasts at the CBC are 90 minutes.

Shows in Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax, Charlottetown, St. John's and the North will be trimmed to 60 minutes. Programs in Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Windsor, Montreal and Fredericton will be chopped to 30 minutes.

CBC will broadcast local Radio One morning shows on TV between 6 and 7 a.m. in all existing markets except the North.

To offset the reduced newscasts, CBC said it would introduce regular local television newsbreaks during the day and prime-time.

It also said it would maintain, and in some cases grow, its spending in local investigative journalism.

Also beginning next fall, CBC will introduce new services specifically for mobile users.

The broadcaster did not specify how jobs would be impacted by the changes.

"CBC/Radio-Canada's new local strategy is about changing how we serve the audience. We are moving to become a comprehensive four-platform local news service — across the day and on demand," Heather Conway, executive vice-president of English Services, said in a statement.

CBC Radio-Canada has already begun rolling out new regional websites across the country with geo-located French-language content. These websites, along with other new digital content, will be available Canada-wide by fall.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Digital offerings**

- CEO Hubert Lacroix announced in June that the broadcaster was planning to cut down local newscasts as part of a plan to increase digital offerings by 2020.
- He did not provide details at that time. But he did say that between 1,000 and 1,500 jobs would be trimmed over the next five years.

The Soarigami aims to prevent the battle over the airplane armrest. PHOTO COURTESY OF SOARIGAMI

## Invention. Device could end in-flight elbow wars

A B.C. man has invented a device that he claims could finally bring an end to in-flight elbow wars.

Called Soarigami, the plastic divider attaches to an existing armrest and doubles the usable space, preventing the possibility of awkward elbow rubbing with strangers.

"We're trying to make flying less stressful and just kind of lighten the mood a little bit," company co-founder Arthur Chang told Metro.

When it launches, Soarigami — which takes its name from Japanese words sora (sky) and gami (grace) — will take on the form of a simple, paper airplane-inspired origami design.

Chang, who grew up in Vancouver but now calls Dallas home, said he came up with the idea while trapped in an air-travel nightmare: He was stuck in the middle seat.

Available for pre-order online, Soarigami will go on sale for about $30 and is expected to launch in early 2015.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO IN VANCOUVER

**Anti-competition**

### Bureau probes Apple contracts

The Competition Bureau is investigating allegations that Apple uses anti-competitive clauses in its contracts with Canadian wireless carriers.

Spokesman Greg Scott says the bureau sought a court order earlier this week to compel Apple Canada Inc. to hand over records relating to the investigation. The bureau says it has not yet concluded whether there has been any wrongdoing on Apple's part.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**New IP law**

### Google to block news from Spain

In a decision that will reverberate around the globe, Google announced Thursday it will close Google News in Spain and block reports from Spanish publishers from more than 70 Google News international editions due to a new Spanish law requiring aggregators to pay to link content.

Google News in Spain will shut down on Dec. 16 — several weeks before a new Spanish intellectual property law takes effect Jan. 1 requiring news publishers to be paid.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Market Minute**

**DOLLAR** 86.75¢ US (-0.36¢)

**TSX** 13,905.12 (+52.17)

**OIL** $59.95 US (-0.99¢)

**GOLD** $1,225.60 US (-$3.80)

**Natural gas:** $3.634 (-7.2¢)
**Dow Jones:** 17,596.34 (+63.19)

## Holiday shopping. Tough time for teen retailers

Being a teen can be tough, but catering to one is even more difficult. Teen retailers are learning that lesson the hard way this holiday season.

The longtime CEO of Abercrombie & Fitch on Tuesday abruptly retired just a week after the retailer posted an 11.5 per cent quarterly sales drop and slashed its annual profit forecast. And American Eagle and Aeropostale gave dismal forecasts for the quarter that includes the holiday shopping season after each posted weak sales for the fall.

But overall U.S. retail sales are up 5.1 per cent over the past 12 months, the Commerce Department said Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Redbox bets on more life in DVD rental business

Unlike other companies that have abandoned the physical media market, Outerwall is betting there's at least a few years left to make money renting out DVDs and Blu-rays.

The U.S.-based vending machine company, which operates the Redbox video rental kiosks and Coinstar money exchange machines, is trying to get Canadians reacquainted with the old routine of popping out to rent a movie.

And the company is offering Canadians some freebies to give the rental machines a try. Lots of them.

New customers get a free one-day rental, all customers can take home a free movie on Thursdays — every Thursday — and after Christmas consumers will be offered yet another free offer, says Redbox president Mark Horak, who admits growth in Canada has not met expectations.

A Redbox machine at a grocery store in Toronto. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

The company operates nearly 1,400 movie-rental machines across Canada and more than 42,000 in the United States. Redbox had hoped to have twice as many machines in place in Canada by the end of 2013, but Horak concedes the company is still trying to build brand awareness here.

"Redbox is the dominant physical rental location now, we're just not in Canada to the extent we could be," says Horak. "There's a lot more emphasis right now on promotions than on new installations but we're still doing both." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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VOICES

# IN DEFENCE OF CALGARY'S WORST DRIVER

**THE KOHLER REPORT**
By Rebecca Kohler

Water coolers were abuzz this week with talk of the latest YouTube sensation: Calgary's Worst Driver.

The four-minute video, caught on surveillance camera and seen by millions of people, depicts a woman in a silver BMW SUV trying to manoeuvre out of a parking spot. Her skills are so poor, the Beemer looks less like a vehicle and more like a confused bull charging backward at an invisible conquistador, in slow motion. She even hits a car behind her.

As I watched this driving instructor's nightmare, I was hit with several emotions: Frustration, incredulity and, I'll be honest, judgment.

But, as I snickered, the video started to feel quite familiar — not because I'd seen it before, but because I had been *that driver*.

Don't get me wrong: I'm not as bad as Calgary's W.D., but, as someone who got behind the wheel only in her 30s, I'm also no Jacques Villeneuve. I once rented a car in Los Angeles and attempted to exit the parking lot the wrong way. I got stuck, and the Enterprise representative had to take over and get it out for me.

I think we were both glad I'd opted for the insurance.

Another time, at a Loblaws parking lot, I was trying to get into a tight spot and was dangerously close to the car beside me. As I struggled, I looked out the window and made eye contact with a man who was shaking his head "no" at me. It wasn't a sympathetic shake, it was more of a "you are a pathetic human being" gesture. I got red in the face and decided it was best I go home and not buy groceries that day.

It's easy to think other people are idiots, because they're not us. It's like those times in public bathrooms when I'll hear someone in a stall having a bad bowel day. I'll think, "Gross. What a loser."

And then I'll remember that I, too, have eaten tainted sushi outside of the house. (As a side note, in these cases, I always feel compelled to look under the stall at her shoes — as if the fact that she's wearing Uggs will shed some light on why this is happening to her.)

Calgary's Worst Driver also had the worst luck getting caught on camera, so I hesitate to laugh too hard. Public humiliation could happen to any of us.

It's winter now. Imagine tomorrow you wipe out on the ice, only to have yourself broadcast on the CBC News as Toronto's Worst Walker. You'd have a whole YouTube comment section dedicated to your inability to saunter. We live in a world where cameras are everywhere — and there are so many things I'm glad an iPhone hasn't caught me doing: From licking the inside of a pizza box to scratching the inside of my nose. With less luck, I would have already been crowned Canada's Most Disgusting Person.

All of this said, I'm not letting the lady behind the wheel of the silver BMW entirely off the hook; she's deserving of some of our collective scorn, not because she is a terrible driver, but because she hit a car and then (slowly) fled the scene. It's one thing to be a bozo on your own time, but as soon as you drag someone else into your incompetence, you should do the right thing and leave a note on your victim's windshield.

Being bad at something doesn't make you worthy of ridicule and judgment, but making someone else pay for it does.

To watch the notorious video, scan this image with your Metro News app. SCREENGRAB

# Happy face/Sad face

From serpentine revenge to serpentine non-events, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week

### SNAKES IN A CAFÉ

Ever been so mad at the absence of diced onions on your Tim's sandwich that you threw a snake at the cashier? Well one guy in Saskatoon (allegedly) has, and now he's facing charges. Police claim the suspect grabbed a garter snake from his friend's pocket and lobbed it behind the counter because his breakfast wasn't made to his liking. Talk about a hissy fit. (See what we did there?)

METRO PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

### MALALA YOUSAFZAI

On Wednesday this amazing Pakistani teen became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Yousafzai brought her two best friends — who were also injured when she was shot by the Taliban — to Oslo with her to share in the incredible moment.

### GOING NUTS OVER NUTS

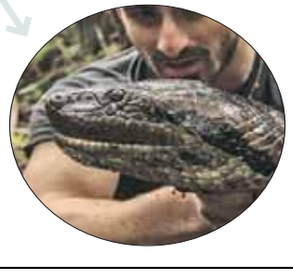
How's this for air rage? An Air Korea flight was delayed when the airline chairman's daughter ordered a crew member off the plane for serving nuts in a bag rather than on a plate. Cho Hyun-ah — who is also an executive for the airline — may be charged for breaching aviation safety regulations by interrupting a flight.

### EBOLA FIGHTERS

For their "tireless acts of courage and mercy," Time magazine has named frontline workers in the fight against Ebola as its Person of the Year. More than 600 health-care workers have developed the disease, and nearly 350 have died, according to the World Health Organization.

### NOT EATEN ALIVE

In other snake news ... naturalist Paul Rosolie disappointed four million Discovery Channel viewers when his much-hyped two-hour show Eaten Alive — in which he was to wear a special suit and get eaten by an anaconda — fell short of its graphic promise. Rosolie was *not* eaten, but did suffer an arm injury from being constricted. In the words of Stephen Colbert: "You promised us Paul Rosolie would be eaten alive... But you only gave us 'Cuddled Alive.'"



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# Going straight can be a rocky road

**Top Five.** From Bill Murray and Robin Williams to Jim Carrey and Jonah Hill, all comic actors eventually attempt to switch to more dramatic roles

Chris Rock wrote, directed and stars in his new comedy, Top Five. CONTRIBUTED

Bill Murray became a big-screen superstar on the back of loose-limbed performances in comedies like Caddyshack, Stripes and Ghostbusters. By 1984, however, he was tiring of playing the clown and looking to do something with a bit more of an edge.

When director John Byrum gave him a copy of W. Somerset Maugham's 1944 novel The Razor's Edge, Murray responded the very next day.

Calling the director at 4 a.m., he said, "This is Larry, Larry Darrell," dropping the name of the novel's main character, an enigmatic man on a quest for spiritual fulfilment.

The resulting film bombed, with Roger Ebert suggesting Murray played "the hero as if fate is a comedian and he is the straight man."

Of course Murray has gone on to become a credible and in-demand dramatic actor, but the story of a comedian's rocky leap from farce to drama still rings true today.

Chris Rock's new comedy Top Five tells the story of Andre Allen, a fictional megastar trying to jump from silly comedies to Uprize, a serious drama about the slave revolt in Haiti.

Top Five is a new twist on an old story. Many comedians have tried to flick the switch from comedy to drama.

Robin Williams effortlessly hopped between genres. In 2002 alone, he made three films: the lowbrow laffer Death to Smoochy, the psychodrama One Hour Photo and Christopher Nolan's thriller Insomnia.

Will Ferrell, Steve Carell and Jonah Hill are known for funny movies like Blades of Glory, The 40-Year-Old Virgin and Superbad, but each have stretched their dramatic muscles.

Ferrell's Stranger Than Fiction earned a good review from Roger Ebert, who said Ferrell "has dramatic gifts to equal his comedic talent."

Carell's new drama Foxcatcher looks poised to earn him notice at awards time.

And Jonah Hill is a two-time Oscar nominee for heavyweights Moneyball and The Wolf of Wall Street.

Jim Carrey played it straight in movies like Man on the Moon, The Majestic and Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.

"It's going to be so hard to talk out of my ass after this," he said when he won the Golden Globe for Best Actor award for The Truman Show, "but I'll manage."

In Review

RICHARD CROUSE

**Top Five**

**Director.** Chris Rock

**Stars.** Chris Rock, Rosario Dawson, Gabrielle Union

●●●●○

The top five things to know about Top Five are: It works as a comedy, as a romance, as a look at creative fulfilment, as a showcase for Chris Rock's comedian friends and as a portrait of fame in the 2000s.

Rock, who also writes and directs, stars as a comedian making a switch to serious drama.

Promoting his new movie and nuptials to reality star Erica (Gabrielle Union), he spends the day with reporter Chelsea Brown (Rosario Dawson) who urges him to think about his past and future.

Unlike his movie alter ego, Rock is clearly still interested in being funny in this personal film that crackles with energy and NSFW humour.

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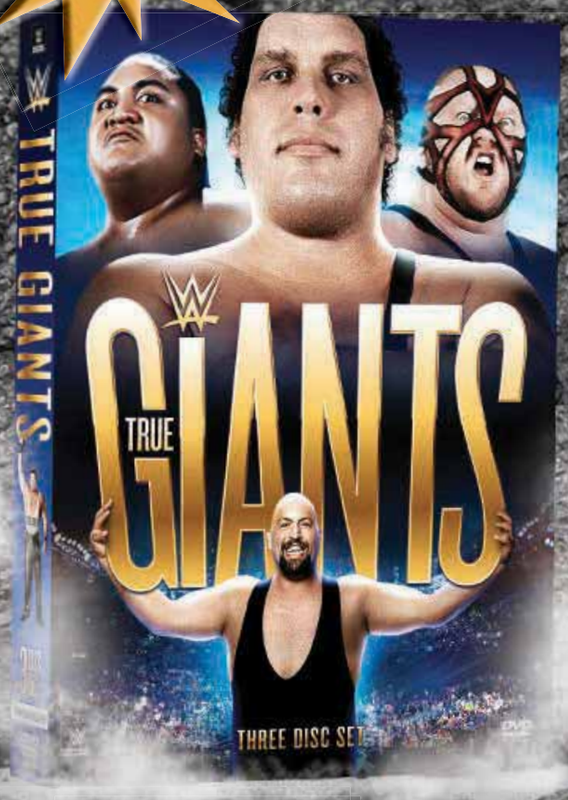


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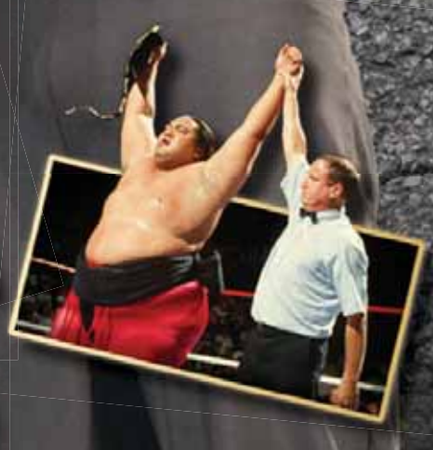

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# Alan Turing's 5 awesome things

Keira Knightley and Benedict Cumberbatch star in The Imitation Game, now in theatres. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**The Imitation Game.** Benedict Cumberbatch is so impressed with Second World War hero Alan Turing, he offers five reasons to watch the new biopic

NED EHRBAR
scene@metronews.ca

When Benedict Cumberbatch signed on to play Second World War code breaker and computer pioneer Alan Turing in The Imitation Game, he became enamoured with the man. And he thinks you should be, too.

So here, in his own words, is why Cumberbatch thinks Turing is such "an extraordinary human being" — and why the film chronicling his decoding of the German Enigma machine and turning the tide of war deserves attention.

**1. He made great things out of great suffering.**

"All of the worst moments in his life led to achievements," explains Cumberbatch. "Being ostracized from a group made him think about isolating work. Not understanding how to communicate because so much of what he had to deal with in his life was to do with secrets made him an expert cryptographer. The idea of clandestine, repressed coding and analyzing that language was just completely borne out of his circumstance."

**2. He's not a Sherlock knock-off.**

"Though Sherlock is an immediate comparison, they're so different. Sherlock is a sociopathic showoff, and Alan was anything but. He was a team player despite our narrative arc in our story."

**3. He never had a chance to be comfortable with himself.**

"At university, he was in a very openly extroverted and celebratory gay culture, but he was incredibly shy because he'd spent his entire childhood loving somebody who then died. Not having it consummated or having it reciprocated, he hadn't formed that understanding of what that was and didn't have any confidence with it. So that was almost as terrifying as complete intolerance."

**4. He was not a fan of metaphors and puns.**

"There was just enough in language that he found disturbing to what he understood of things and how language should be used — what words are literally interpretable as, rather than innuendo or inflection or irony. "If you take the bare instructions of what words are, he was fascinated with that."

**5. He can be funny — and it's OK to laugh.**

"(The film) should be funny — and sometimes unintentionally on his part. It's him missing the point, or not missing the point, but everyone else using lazy language and him thinking they mean literally what they mean. I don't think he was always trying to be a pedant. I think he genuinely did think in a very literal way, hence his discoveries."

**Analysis**

## *Turing definitely a hero, says Allen Leech*

Irish actor Allen Leech first gained notoriety as upstart chauffeur Tom Branson on Downton Abbey. While that show has slowly crept through the first half of the 20th century, Leech is jumping forward a few years with The Imitation Game, starring as part of the team of mathematicians who help Alan Turing crack the Nazi Enigma machine.

Leech says he knew a bit about Turing before signing on with the film, but had no idea how much of a hero he was.

"I knew Alan Turing, I knew he'd built a machine, but I certainly didn't know the extent that he went to during the time at Bletchley Park, how hard he had to fight for the opportunity to make this machine and how hard he'd have to fight for his own existence later on in his life.

"Turing was a war hero. His work and the work of the people at Bletchley Park ended the war two years early, with an estimated saving of 14 million lives. I mean, anyone who says that Turing isn't a war hero just has to look at that fact, and what they estimated his achievement gave the Allies, and realize how important he was. Secrets give you power. At the time during the Second World War, if you had knowledge, then you became more powerful.

NED EHRBAR

Allen Leech
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# Birdman, Boyhood among films with the golden touch

**Awards.** Aside from wild cards like The Judge, the Golden Globe noms are a pretty predictable lot

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in New York

Not surprisingly, Birdman racked up seven Golden Globe nominations. CONTRIBUTED

The Golden Globes, the Oscars' more fun, slightly more dishevelled younger sibling, rolled out their nominations for 2014. Traditionally what they pick has been a reasonably accurate prediction of what the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will themselves choose, as well as what has been feted by other laudatory organizations. And if you've been following critics groups' awards, you already know that Boyhood and Birdman are the best horses for your betting needs.

That said, there are always some wild cards, the most glaring being the nomination for Robert Duvall for The Judge — a rickety, faintly offensive stab at a crowd-pleasing awards gobbler that presumably most people already forget ever existed. In a similar but different vein, Jessica Chastain racked up her token nod for the 10,000 movies she did this year, but it wasn't for The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby, as the Weinstein Company would have liked. Instead it's for her Brooklyn-accented work in the crime saga A Most Violent Year.

Julianne Moore wound up with two nominations — one for the Alzheimer's drama Still Alice, another for David Cronenberg's Hollywood satire Maps to the Stars, the latter, which had seemed to have been lost in the shuffle.

The most curious bits involved the Globes' classification system, especially what it designates as comedy and drama. It's neat that they didn't try to elevate the very silly Birdman — or the even nuttier Inherent Vice, which scored a single nod, for Joaquin Phoenix — to the prestigious dramatic category.

Steve Carell grabbed a best actor in a motion picture drama nomination for his chilling role in Foxcatcher. CONTRIBUTED

That said, is Tim Burton's Big Eyes really a comedy? Its tale of a woman (Amy Adams) whose paintings are stolen by her abusive husband (Christoph Waltz) is very broadly played, but is that even the same thing?

## Golden Globe film nominees

- **Best picture, drama.** Boyhood; Foxcatcher; The Imitation Game; Selma; The Theory of Everything
- **Best picture, comedy or musical.** Birdman; The Grand Budapest Hotel; Into the Woods; Pride; St. Vincent
- **Best director.** Wes Anderson, The Grand Budapest Hotel; Ava DuVernay, Selma; David Fincher, Gone Girl; Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, Birdman; Richard Linklater, Boyhood;
- **Best actress, drama.** Jennifer Aniston, Cake; Felicity Jones, The Theory of Everything; Julianne Moore, Still Alice; Rosamund Pike, Gone Girl; Reese Witherspoon, Wild
- **Best actor, drama.** Steve Carell, Foxcatcher; Benedict Cumberbatch, The Imitation Game; Jake Gyllenhaal, Nightcrawler; David Oyelowo, Selma; Eddie Redmayne, The Theory of Everything
- **Best actress, comedy or musical.** Amy Adams, Big Eyes; Emily Blunt, Into the Woods; Helen Mirren, The Hundred Foot Journey; Julianne Moore, Maps to the Stars; Quvenzhae Wallis, Annie
- **Best actor, comedy or musical.** Ralph Fiennes, The Grand Budapest Hotel; Michael Keaton, Birdman; Bill Murray, St. Vincent; Joaquin Phoenix, Inherent Vice; Christoph Waltz, Birdman

## Golden Globe television nominees

- **Drama series.** The Affair; Downton Abbey; Game of Thrones; The Good Wife; House of Cards
- **Drama, actor.** Clive Owen, The Knick; Liev Schreiber, Ray Donovan; Kevin Spacey, House of Cards; James Spader, The Blacklist; Dominic West, The Affair
- **Drama, actress.** Claire Danes, Homeland; Viola Davis, How to Get Away With Murder; Julianna Margulies, The Good Wife; Ruth Wilson, The Affair; Robin Wright, House of Cards
- **The full list of nominees is available online at metronews.ca.**

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# Now in theatres

Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. For more movie reviews, trailers and news go to RottenTomatoes.com.

**Ratings:** *Certified Fresh:* *Fresh:* *Rotten:* *Audience response:* *Audience anticipation for the film:* +

**Drama**

## Exodus: Gods and Kings

**Director.** Ridley Scott

**Stars.** Christian Bale, Ben Kingsley

From acclaimed director Ridley Scott (Gladiator, Prometheus) comes the epic adventure Exodus: Gods and Kings, the story of one man's daring courage to take on the might of an empire. Using state-of-the-art visual effects and 3D immersion, Scott brings new life to the story of the defiant leader Moses (Christian Bale).

**Rotten Tomatoes™ score**
**Critics:** 45% **Audience:** + 96%

**Documentary**

## Citizenfour

**Director.** Laura Poitras

**Stars.** Edward Snowden

In January 2013, Poitras was several years into making a film about surveillance in the post-9/11 era when she started receiving encrypted e-mails from someone identifying himself as "citizen four," who was ready to blow the whistle on the massive covert surveillance programs run by the NSA and other intelligence agencies. The man turned out to be Edward Snowden.

**Rotten Tomatoes™ score**
**Critics:** 96% **Audience:** 92%

**Drama**

## The Theory of Everything

**Director.** James Marsh

**Stars.** Eddie Redmayne, Felicity Jones

Starring Eddie Redmayne (Les Misérables) and Felicity Jones (The Amazing Spider-Man 2), this is the extraordinary story of one of the world's greatest living minds, the renowned astrophysicist Stephen Hawking, who falls deeply in love with fellow Cambridge student Jane Wilde.

**Rotten Tomatoes™ score**
**Critics:** 81% **Audience:** 83%

**Drama**

## Rosewater

**Director.** Jon Stewart

**Stars.** Gael García Bernal, Kim Bodnia

Rosewater is based on The New York Times best-selling memoir Then They Came for Me: A Family's Story of Love, Captivity, and Survival, written by Maziar Bahari. The film marks the directorial debut of The Daily Show host Jon Stewart, and stars Gael García Bernal. Rosewater follows the Tehran-born Bahari, a broadcast journalist with Canadian citizenship.

**Rotten Tomatoes™ score**
**Critics:** **Audience:** + 91%

**Comedy**

## Horrible Bosses 2

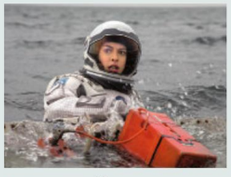
**Director.** Sean Anders

**Stars.** Jason Bateman, Jason Sudeikis, Charlie Day

The followup to the 2011 hit comedy Horrible Bosses reunites Jason Bateman, Charlie Day and Jason Sudeikis as everyone's favourite working stiffs: Nick, Dale and Kurt. Jennifer Aniston, and Oscar winners Jamie Foxx (Ray) and Kevin Spacey (American Beauty, The Usual Suspects) also reprise their Horrible Bosses starring roles.

**Rotten Tomatoes™ score**
**Critics:** 35% **Audience:** 65%

**Sci-Fi/Adventure**



## Interstellar

**Director.** Christopher Nolan

**Stars.** Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, Jessica Chastain

With our time on Earth coming to an end, a team of explorers undertakes the most important mission in human history; travelling beyond this galaxy to discover whether mankind has a future among the stars.

**Rotten Tomatoes™ score**
**Critics:** 74% **Audience:** + 99%

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# Finding an end by wrapping the beginning

**Producer interview.** With the last Hobbit film, Peter Jackson is thrilled to finally finish his Lord of the Rings adventure

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Thirteen years, six movies and more than 1,000 minutes of film later, Peter Jackson is ready for a break.

"You can't believe how much we don't want anything to do," he says.

With the release of The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies, the journey that began with 2001's The Fellowship of the Ring has come to an end for the director and his wife, producer and screenwriter Fran Walsh.

"We haven't had a day when we've woken up and there hasn't been a deadline," he says of the last 13 years.

"Even if you go on vacation and they say, 'You finished the first Hobbit movie and you can have three weeks off over Christmas,' but we have to come back and start work on the next one on January 6, so it has always been this sort of looming thing.

"Now we get to wake up and it is done, finished, nothing left to do. We deliberately haven't taken on any other work because Fran and I wanted so badly, for once in our professional lives of 30-odd years, to not have anything to do. That doesn't mean that six weeks into our holiday we'll not be so bloody bored that we'll immediately start another project. That would be fine. At least we'll do it for the right reasons."

The new film is the end of an era, and the beginning of one of the biggest movie franchises in history. As the third part of the Hobbit trilogy, it brings to an end Jackson's J.R.R. Tolkien's adaptations. In the chronology, however, it is midway, the film that sets up the Lord of the Rings pictures.

"To me it has significance because it is the moment in time where a six-film series finally comes into focus," he says. "We are only four or five years away from a generation arriving who will have no memory or knowledge of how these films were released when they came out. All they'll have is a six-part box set and hopefully they'll start at the beginning and go through to the end. To me, until this movie actually existed there were these parts that were floating out there that can now be together."

He may be done with the Lord of the Rings and Hobbit movies — "I have other things I want to make. I think it would be a terrible sad thing to spend the rest of my life going back over these films and trying to make them better" — but he's not done with the cast he built over the years.

"We've just got such a wonderful collection of actors of all different types, and we're friends now," he says.

"I would be a happy man if I could make movies for the rest of my life using the cast we've used to date. I love it when directors have relationships with the same actors in film after film. It's a fantastic thing."

Peter Jackson says he and his wife have no work planned now that The Hobbit trilogy has wrapped. CONTRIBUTED

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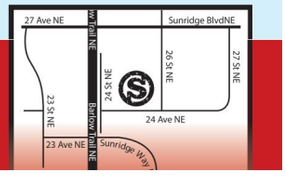


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# Dirty Singles celebrates director's hometown

**Streaming.** Alex Pugsley gave Toronto as much of a starring role inhis debut film as the ensemble cast

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

Actors Alex Paxton-Bessley and Paul Campbell in Alex Pugsley's romantic comedy Dirty Singles. CONTRIBUTED

Alex Pugsley almost tried to cast Rachel McAdams in his very first movie — except the young director changed his mind.

"I have a friend that's a yoga instructor of Rachel McAdams and I thought, should I pretend to be a yoga student and pass her the script?" laughed the filmmaker while discussing his new drama Dirty Singles.

"Then I thought it might be weird — not only because it's weird to approach her at a yoga class, but if there's one movie star and everyone else is sort of unknown, it might make the feng shui of the movie wonky."

Wise move. Instead, Dirty Singles is a well-balanced movie that's reminiscent of such multi-layered rom-coms as Love Actually and Crazy Stupid Love. In the ensemble relationship drama (available Dec. 15 on iTunes and VOD), a group of late-20-something couples struggle with their collective friendship after one pair's partnership falls apart.

"The cast is one of the strongest features of the movie," said Pugsley of an ensemble he whittled down from about 250 auditions. "When you're making a romantic comedy, you want the actors to feel like they're really a couple because the audience will figure it out. The audience will sense immediately if people have chemistry and they would actually be married to each other."

As convincing as Pugsley intended his actors' performances to be, the TV writer-turned-director also insisted on making Toronto part of the movie — if not for the sake of simplicity (he shot it all within a 200-metre radius of one neighbourhood, after all), then for the love of his hometown.

"Toronto is used so often as a stand-in for New York or London," said Pugsley. "I thought let's see the CN Tower or the Gardiner Expressway or streetcars. I think Toronto's amazing, so let's celebrate it — I wish more things did."

## Dirty Singles by the numbers

**Alex Pugsley admits his debut feature was "a big logistical challenge." Here's a look at Dirty Singles by the numbers:**

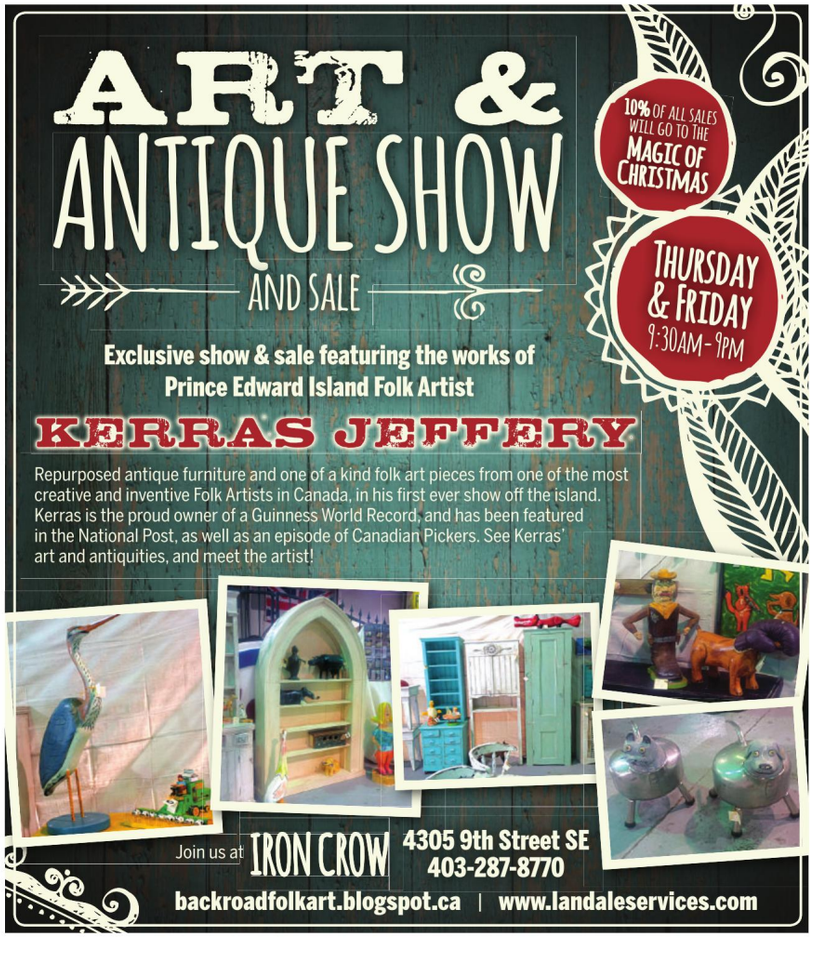
**250**
Auditions for the movie.

**30**
Filming locations within a 200-metre radius.

**21**
Speaking parts in the film.

**14**
Days to shoot the movie.

**9**
Hours of daylight in December, when he filmed the movie.



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# Chris Rock finds success by playing himself

**Interview.** Comic says his new movie works because the main character is a real guy

With his latest and best film in tow, Chris Rock is back in the spotlight right when we most need him.

There's no more salient voice on race in America, not to mention most other things in America, too: marriage, sports, Kanye West.

As Rock prepared to release his film Top Five, his commentary on the grand jury verdicts in Ferguson and New York has been trenchant. And his criticism of the movie business — "a white industry," he called it in an essay for the Hollywood Reporter — has been like water in the desert of a tight-lipped Hollywood. Rock is on a truth-telling spree.

For the first time, he has found a way to funnel his strong voice into a fiction film of his own. Top Five, a comedy that sparked a bidding war at the Toronto International Film Festival, is a big-screen breakthrough for the standup. Excepting his excellent documentary Good Hair, Rock's previous films (Head of State, I Think I Love My Wife) were disappointments.

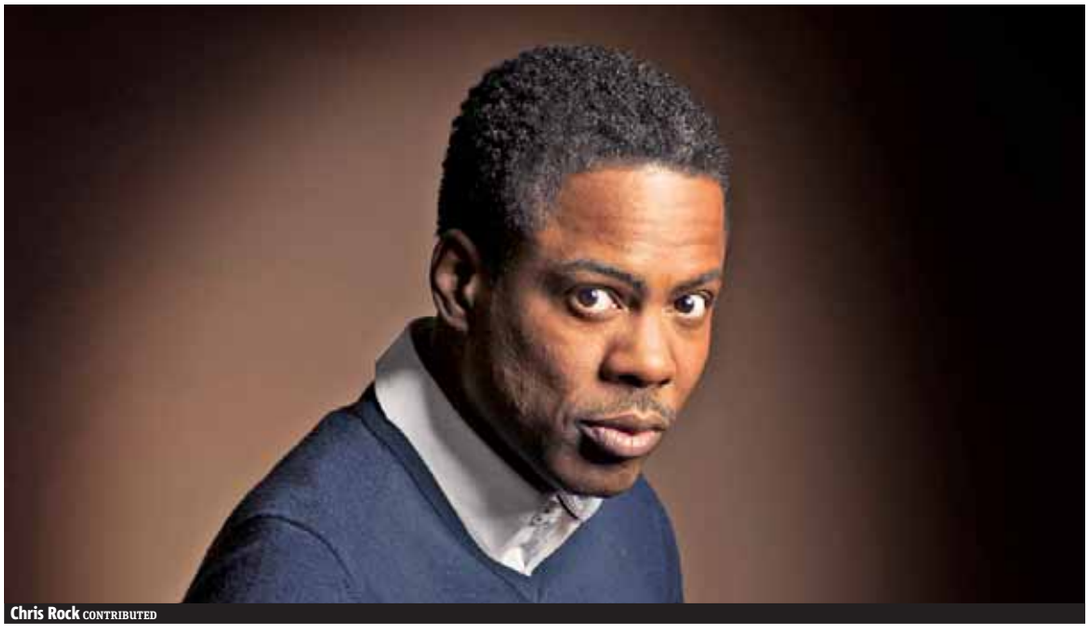
But he's clearly thrilled about Top Five, a romp through celebrity and New York. Rock plays a version of himself, Andre Allen, a comic attempting to turn serious filmmaker.

In person, Rock appears far younger than the 50 he'll turn in February: "It's a rich 50," he says. "Rich 50 is about 35. Money's the best lotion in the world." Over tea, recently, he was as animated and forthcoming as usual:

**Do you feel as though you've finally cracked this nut, fitting yourself into your own movie?**
I've got to do it again, but it feels like when I did my big Bring the Pain special for HBO. You've got to learn from your failures. You've got to really, really take them in. You can't shrug them off. You can't blame them on anyone else. You can't go, "Oh, that day it snowed!"

**Did doing the Broadway play M------- With the Hat help lead to Top Five?**
It just made me write characters. I look at the other movies I made, it wasn't even like I was making movies. I was making posters. Like: Black guy runs for president — poster! Some of them worked, some of them didn't, but Andre Allen is a real guy, not like a guy just to serve this movie. Even something like I Think I Love My Wife, he was the husband representative.

**It must have changed you as a performer, too.**
Before we went out every night, Bobby (Cannavale) would lead and go, "Four walls. It's just us. Four walls. They're not there. Four walls." I realized in my acting, in all the movies, I was always playing the crowd. Even in a freaking movie, I'm kind of playing the crowd. Just the phrase "four walls." I say it all the time. I said it while I was making Top Five. I'm really acting with somebody, as opposed to Bob Hope-ing it.


Chris Rock CONTRIBUTED

**You seem to be a student of standups who have succeeded in other mediums, Seinfeld, Curb Your Enthusiasm, Woody Allen films and Adam Sandler's movies.**
I definitely watched all of those things before making this movie. I thought it was interesting that no one had made a movie like Curb. I love Stardust Memories. Love it, love it. In a weird way, this movie is a combination of Stardust Memories and one of those (Richard) Linklater, Julie Delpy, Ethan Hawke walking around movies.

**You've said Top Five is partially about "black fame."**
The black performer has a responsibility to the community that white performers don't have. They just get to be actors and writers and whatever. They get to pretty much do whatever they want. You never hear white people are good role models. Never. The term role model is racist because it implies that my good behaviour is not natural, that I am behaving just to help out my people. I don't hit my wife because that's not something I do, not because I'm trying to help the race.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Obama is Olajuwon**

**Chris Rock's views on U.S. President Barack Obama:**

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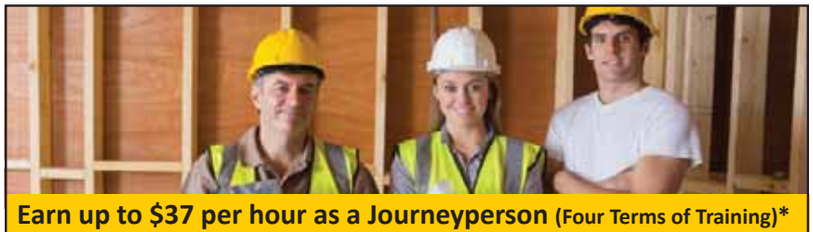

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AMVIC Alberta Motor Vehicle Industry Council

**THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 12 TO THURS., DEC. 18. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

### Canyon Meadows Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (G) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:15-7:20-9:35
The Best of Me (PG) Fri-Thu 7:15
The Book of Life (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-6:45
The Boxtrolls (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-3:50-7:10
Dolphin Tale 2 (G) Fri-Thu 12:55
Dracula Untold (14A) Fri-Thu 9:55
The Equalizer (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4-6:55-9:40
Guardians of the Galaxy (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:10-7:05-9:50
The Hundred-Foot Journey (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:55-7-9:40
The Judge (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-6:50-9:25
Kill the Messenger (14A) Fri-Thu 4:05-9:50
The Maze Runner (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:40-7:05-9:45
Meet the Mormons (STC) Fri-Thu 1-3:25-5:45-7:45-9:45
Ouija (14A) Fri-Thu 9:30

### Crowfoot Crossing 91 Crowfoot Terrace

Annie (G) No Passes Thu 7-9:50
Big Hero 6 (G) Fri 1:30-4:10 Sat 10:45-1:30-4:10 Sun 1:30-4:10 Mon-Tue 1:35-4:15 Wed-Thu 1:35
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:35-6:30-9:30 Mon-Tue 3:35-6:30-9:30 Wed-Thu 4:15-6:55-9:35
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri 1:45-4:25-7:10-9:55 Sat 11:05-1:45-4:25-7:10-9:55 Sun 1:45-4:25-7:10-9:55 Mon-Tue 1:45-4:25-7:10-10:20 Wed 1:45-4:25-7:10-10:10 Thu 1:45-4:25
Exhibition OnScreen: Matisse (STC) Sun 12:55
Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-3:20-6:40-10 No Passes Mon-Tue 3:20-6:40-10 No Passes Wed 6:40-10 No Passes Thu 3:20-6:40-10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1:30
Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:20-3:40-7-10:20 No Passes Mon-Tue 3:40-7:05-10:20 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:20-3:40-7:05-10:20
Gone Girl (18A) Fri 12:05-3:25-6:45-10:10 Sat 6:45-10:10 Sun 3:25-6:45-10:10 Mon 3:25-10:10 Tue 3:25-6:45-10:10
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 3:15-6:35
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:15-2:35-3:35-5:55-6:55-9:15-9:55-10:15
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri-Tue 2:05-4:45-7:25-10:25 Wed 4:45-7:25-10:25 Thu 2:05-4:45-7:25-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-1:15-3:45-4:15-6:50-7:15-9:25-9:45-10:15 Mon-Tue 1:30-3:45-4:20-6:50-7:15-9:25-9:45-10:15 Wed 12:40-1:30-3:45-4:20-6:50-7:20-9:45-10:15 Thu 12:40-1:30-3:45-4:20-7:20-10:15
Interstellar (PG) Fri 2:30-6:05-9:40 Sat 10:50-2:30-6:05-9:40 Sun-Thu 2:30-6:05-9:40
The Metropolitan Opera: Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg (STC) Sat 10
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) No Passes Thu 7-9:30
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri-Tue 1:55-4:30-6:55 Wed-Thu 1:55
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:40-10:05 Mon-Tue 2:55-5:20-7:40-10:05 Wed-Thu 4:30-6:45-9:20
The Polar Express 3D (G) Sat 11
St. Vincent (PG) Fri-Sun 7:20-9:50 Mon 10:15 Tue 7:20-10:15

### Eau Claire Market, 200 Barlay Parade

Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (14A) Fri 6:50-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:50-9:40 Mon-Tue 5:20-8:10 Wed-Thu 5:30-8:10
Citizenfour (PG) Fri 6:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:30-9:20 Mon-Tue 5:50-8:40 Wed-Thu 6-8:50
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 5:20-8:30
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-9:50 Tue 5:40-8:20 Wed-Thu 5:50-8:20
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri 7-10 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-10 Mon-Tue 6-8:50 Wed-Thu 6:10-9
Interstellar (PG) Fri 8:10 Sat-Sun 12:20-4:20-8:10 Mon-Tue 8
The Theory of Everything (G) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:30 Mon-Tue 5:30-8:30 Wed-Thu 5:40-8:40

### Landmark Cinemas 16 Country Hills, 388 Country Hills Blvd

Annie (G) Thu 6:30-9:30
Big Hero 6 (G) Fri 4:10-6:50 Sat-Sun 10:45-4:10-6:50 Mon-Thu 4:10-6:50
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:20-9:45 Mon-Thu 9:45
Chaar Sahibzaade 3D (PG) Fri 1:10-6:45-9:50 Sat-Sun 10:40-1:10-6:45-9:50 Tue 4:05-10:10
Corner Gas: The Movie (PG) Fri-Sun 4-7:10
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri-Sun 1:45-4:50-7:40-10:20 Mon-Tue 4:50-7:40-10:20 Wed 3:15-7:40-10:20 Thu 3:15
Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG) Fri-Mon 3-6:30-10 Tue 10 Wed-Thu 3-6:30-10 Sat-Sun 11 Tue 3-6:30
Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12-3:30-7-10:15 Mon 3:30-7-10:15 Tue 3:10-7-10:15 Wed-Thu 3:30-7-10:15
The Hobbit Trilogy 3D (STC) Mon 12:30
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Wed-Thu 4-8
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies -- An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Wed-Thu 3:15-6:45-10:15
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 5-6-9-9:30
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri-Sat 1:30-4:15-7:20-9:55 Sun-Thu 4:15-7:20-9:55
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri 12:05-3:05-6-9 Sat 12:05-3:05-6-9-10:10 Sun 12:05-1-3:05-3:50-6-9-10:10 Mon-Tue 3:05-3:50-6-7:10-9-10:10 Wed 3:35-3:50-6:20-7:15-9:30 Thu 3:35-3:50-6:20-9:30 Fri 12:30-1-3:35-3:50-6:20-9:30-10:10 Sat 10:50-12:30-1-3:35-3:50-6:20-9:30 Sun 10:50-12:30-3:35-6:20-9:30 Mon-Tue 3:35-6:20-9:30 Wed 10:30
Interstellar (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 4:40-9:20
Interstellar: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-4-8 Mon 3 Tue 4-8
Meet the Mormons (STC) Fri-Sun 2-4:20-7:30-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:30-10:25
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Thu 7-10
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri 1:40-4:30-7:15 Sat-Sun 10:55-1:40-4:30-7:15 Mon-Tue 4:30-7:15 Wed-Thu 3:20-6:10
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Fri 12:40-3:20-6:10-9:10 Sat 12:40-3:20 Sun 10:30-12:40-3:20-6:10-9:10 Mon-Tue 3:20-6:10-9:10 Wed-Thu 9:10 Sat 10:30-6:10-9:10
Serena (14A) Fri-Tue 10:05
The Theory of Everything (G) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:10-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 3:10-6:40-9:40
Top Five (18A) Fri-Sun 1:50-5-7:50-10:30 Mon-Thu 5-7:50-10:30

### Landmark Cinemas 10 Shawnessy & EXTRA Calgarytudio, 100-16061 MacLeod Trail

Big Hero 6 (G) Fri 4-6:45 Sat-Sun 10:30-4-6:45 Big Hero 6 (G) Fri 4-6:45 Sat-Sun 10:30-4-6:45 Mon-Tue 4-6:45 Wed-Thu 3:30-7:10
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri-Tue 1-9:30 Wed-Thu 12:30-9:50
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-3-7:30-10:10 Mon 12:10-3-10:10 Tue 12:10-3-7:30-10:10
Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG) Wed-Thu 4
Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 11:45-3:15-6:45-10:15 Wed-Thu 12:15-8
The Hobbit Trilogy 3D (STC) Mon 12:30
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Wed-Thu 11:15-2:45-6:30-10
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 12:45-4:30-8:15 Wed-Thu 11:45-3:15-7-10:30
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri-Tue 1:15-4:45-7:45-10:30 Wed-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:20-10:15
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri 6:30 Sat 12-12:30-9:20-10 Sun 12-12:30-3:10-3:45-6:30-7:15-9:20-10-10:20 Mon 12-3:10-6:30-9:45-10-10:20 Tue 12-12:30-3:10-3:45-6:30-10 Wed 6:45 Thu 12-1:15-3-4:15-7:30-10:30 Fri 12-12:30-3:10-3:45-7:15-9:20-10-10:20 Sat 10:15-3:10-3:45-6:30-7:15-10:20 Sun 10:15 Tue 7:15-9:20-10:20 Wed 12-1:15-3-4:15-7:30-9:45-10:30
Interstellar (PG) Fri-Tue 12-4:15-8 Wed 4:10-8:30 Thu 12:15-4:10-8:30
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Thu 7:15-10
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri-Sat 12:45-3:30-6:10 Sun 12:45 Mon 12:45-3:30 Tue 12:45-3:30-6:10 Wed-Thu 3:45-6:20 Sat 10:45 Sun 10:45-3:30-6:10
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Fri-Tue 1:30-4:30-7-9:50 Wed-Thu 1-9:30
The Theory of Everything (G) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:40 Mon 12:20-3:20-6:20 Tue 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:40

### Globe Cinema, 617-8 Avenue

Elsa & Fred (PG) Fri 6:50-9 Sat 12:50-3 Sun 12:50-3-6:50-9 Mon-Thu 6:50-9
Force Majeure (14A) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-3:20-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20
On Any Sunday: The Next Chapter (STC) Sat 7:30-9:30

### Scotiabank Chinook 6455 MacLeod Trail

Annie (G) No Passes Thu 7-10
Big Hero 6 (G) Fri-Sun 11:05-1:45-4:30-7:10 Mon 12:15-3:15 Tue 12:15-3:15-7:35 Wed-Thu 1:35
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri-Sun 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30 Mon-Tue 1:35-4:15-7-9:45 Wed-Thu 4:15-7-9:45
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri-Sun 11:30-2:20-5-7:55-10:35 Mon-Thu 12-2:40-5:20-7:55-10:30
Exhibition OnScreen: Matisse (STC) Sun 12:55
Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG) No Passes Fri 12-3:20-6:40-10 No Passes Sat 12:40-4-7:20-10:40 No Passes Sun 12-3:20-6:40-10 No Passes Mon-Wed 1:30-5-8:40 No Passes Thu 1:30-5-10:10
Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 12:40-4-7:20-10:40 No Passes Sat 12-3:20-6:40-10 No Passes Sun 12:40-4-7:20-10:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:10-3:30-6:50-10:10
Fury (14A) Fri-Sat 12:50-3:55-7:20-10:25 Sun 3:55-7:20-10:25 Mon-Wed 1-4-7:15-10:20 Thu 1-4-7
Gone Girl (18A) Fri 12:15-3:35-6:55-10:15 Sat 6:55-10:15 Sun 12:15-3:35-6:55-10:15 Mon 1-10 Tue 1-4:20-8 Wed 1-10:15 Thu 12:15-3:30

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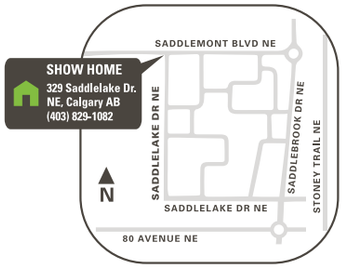


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Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper in Serena. CONTRIBUTED

The Hobbit Trilogy Triple Bill IMAX 3D (STC) No Passes Mon 4
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) No Passes Wed 2:10-5:25 No Passes Thu 2:10-5:30
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies -- An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:10-3:30-6:50-10:10
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 3-6:30-8:50-9:50 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:40-4-7:20-10:40
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:50-5:30-8:10-10:50 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:10-9:50
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-1:30-3:20-4:25-6:20-7:20-9:30-10:20 Mon-Tue 12:20-2:30-3:20-5:30-6:20-8:30-9:30 Wed 12:20-1:30-3:20-4:30-6:20-7:30-9:30-10:30 Thu 12:20-3:20-4:30-6:20-7:30-9:30-10:30 Fri-Sun 11-1:50-4:50-7:50-10:45 Mon-Tue 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Interstellar (PG) Fri-Sun 11:45-3:25-7:05-10:45 Mon-Thu 12:15-4:10-7:50
Interstellar: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 11:15-3-6:40-10:20 Tue 1:45-5:20-9
John Wick (14A) Fri-Sun 9:40 Mon 10:30 Tue 9:40
The Metropolitan Opera: Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg (STC) Sat 9:55
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) No Passes Thu 7-9:45
Nightcrawler (14A) Fri-Sun 9:55 Mon 10:30 Tue 10:15
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri-Sun 11:40-2:25-4:50-7:15 Mon-Tue 12-2:25-4:50-7:15 Wed-Thu 12:50
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Fri 12:45-3:10-5:35-8-10:25 Sat 1:30-4-5:35-8-10:30 Sun 12:45-3:10-5:35-8-10:25 Mon 12:50-4-6:40-9 Tue 12:50-4-6:40-9:30 Wed-Thu 4-6:40-9:30
The Polar Express 3D (G) Sat 11
Serena (14A) Fri-Sat 2-4:40-7:25-10:05 Sun 1-4:40-7:25-10:05 Mon-Wed 2-4:40-7:25-10:05 Thu 4:15 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Top Five (18A) No Passes Fri-Mon 12-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:30 No Passes Tue-Thu 12-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:25

### Plaza Theatre
### 1133 Kensington Rd. N.W.

Boyhood (14A) Sat 1 Sun 9 Mon-Tue 7 Thu 7
Whiplash (14A) Fri 7 Sat 4 Wed 7

### Sunridge Spectrum
### 2555 32nd Street

Action Jackson (STC) Fri-Sat 12:55-4:25-7:45 SAction Jackson (14A) Fri-Sat 1:10-4:25-7:45 Sun-Tue 1:15-4:35-7:55 Wed 3-7:45 Thu 2:10-6:10
Annie (G) No Passes Thu 7:15-10:05
Big Hero 6 (G) Fri-Sat 1:25 Sun-Tue 1:10 Wed 12:40-3:20-6:40-9:30 Thu 12:40-3:30-6:40-9:30
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri-Sat 4:10-6:55-9:45 Sun-Tue 3:50-6:40-9:25
Chaar Sahibzaade (PG) Wed-Thu 1:10-4:15-7:50
Chaar Sahibzaade 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 3:45-6:45-9:55 Sun 3:10-6:20-9:20 Tue 3:10-6:20-9:20
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri-Sat 1:35-4:30-7:35-10:15 Sun-Tue 2:05-4:45-7:30-10:15 Wed 1:40-4:20-10:15 Thu 1:40-4:25
Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 12-3:20-6:40-10:10 No Passes Sun-Tue 2-6:15-9:40 No Passes Wed 4:50-8:10 No Passes Thu 1:05-4:35-8:05 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1:30
Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:30 No Passes Sun-Tue 3:40-7-10:20 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:25-3:50-7:10-10:30
The Hobbit Trilogy (STC) No Passes Mon 4
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 4:05-7:20
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-3:45-7-10:20 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:50-1:20-2-4:40-6-8-9:20-10:35
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri-Sat 1:20-4:05-6:50-9-9:35 Sun-Tue 1:20-4:05-6:50-8:40-9:35 Wed 1:25-4:10-6:55-10 Thu 1:25-4:10-6:55-9:50
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sat 12:20-1-3:30-4-6:30-7-9:30-10 Sun-Tue 1-3-4-6:30-7:10-9:30-10:10 Wed 4-7:30-10:25 Thu 12:55-4-7:30-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Interstellar (PG) Fri-Sat 1:40-6-9:40 Sun-Tue 1:40-6:05-9:45
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) No Passes Thu 7:40-10:15
Past Tense (PG) Fri-Sat 1:45-4:45-8 Sun-Tue 3:20-6:25-10 Wed 3:10-6:30-9:50 Thu 3:10
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri-Sat 12:45-3:15-6:10 Sun-Tue 1:05-3:30-6:10 Wed-Thu 1:50
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Fri-Sat 12:15-2:35-5-7:25-9:50 Sun-Tue 1:50-4:30-7:20-9:50 Wed 4:30-6:50-9:10 Thu 4:20-6:50-9:10
PK (STC) Thu 9:40
The Polar Express 3D (G) Sat 11
Serena (14A) Fri-Sat 1:30-4:20-7:15-10:05 Sun-Tue 1:35-4:25-7:15-9:55

### Westhills 10
### 165 Stewart Green

Big Hero 6 (G) Fri-Sun 12:45 Mon-Tue 3:55 Wed-Thu 3:55-6:25-9:05
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:30-6:45-9:35 Mon-Tue 6:25-9:10
Corner Gas: The Movie (PG) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1-7
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri 1:15-4:15-10 Sat-Sun 4:15-10 Mon-Tue 6:45-9:25
Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 3:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 5
Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 12:20-7-10:20 No Passes Sun 12:20-7 No Passes Mon-Tue 8:15 No Passes Wed-Thu 8:20
Gone Girl (18A) Fri-Sun 9:30
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 4:55
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 4:20-7:40 No Passes Wed-Thu 5:30-8:15-8:45
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri-Sun 1:05-4:20-7:20-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:05-6:40-9:20
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Mon-Tue 5:30-8:30 Wed-Thu 6:15-9:10 Fri 12:35-3:40-6:40-9:40 Sat 6:40-9:40 Sun 12:35-3:40-6:40-9:40 Tue 4:15-7:10
Interstellar (PG) Fri-Sun 1:45-5:30-9:15 Mon-Tue 4:30-8:05 Wed-Thu 4:30-8:10
The Metropolitan Opera: Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg (STC) Sat 10
The Metropolitan Opera: Le Nozze Di Figaro - Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-3-6:30 Mon-Tue 4:45-7:30 Wed-Thu 4
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:55-4:05-6:50-9:45 Mon-Tue 4-6:20-8:40 Wed-Thu 6:20-8:40
The Theory of Everything (G) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:45-6:55-9:55 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:45

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Taylor Swift reinvented herself as a pop star with her album 1989. GETTY IMAGES

# A look back at Taylor Swift's year of note

**Music.** Country hit-maker tops charts and industry chatter with her pop-fuelled 1989

From her expert use of social media to her highly publicized reflections on the music industry, Taylor Swift has caught the public's attention multiple times in a year that's seen the country singer reinvent herself as a full-blown pop star via her latest, chart-topping album, 1989.

### "Love affair" between artist and fans

In July, Swift wrote an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal offering up her thoughts on music sales and the industry's future, referring to herself as "an enthusiastic optimist: one of the few living souls in the music industry who still believes that the music industry is not dying ... it's just coming alive."

Among her points: that having fans will get artists record deals rather than the other way around, something she exemplifies in her strong social media presence.

Leading up to her album launch, Swift made smart use of social networks, announcing the LP in a Yahoo! livestream while taking questions from fans via Instagram, Skype and Twitter, later counting down to the launch with snapshots of lyrics on Instagram, and inviting some lucky followers to her home for private listening parties.

"I believe couples can stay in love for decades if they just continue to surprise each other," she wrote in the WSJ, "so why can't this love affair exist between an artist and their fans?"

### Genres "less of a career-defining path"

In her op-ed, Swift alluded to something fans could expect of her later in the year, when her decidedly non-country album 1989 came out.

She said, "I want to make music that reflects all of my influences, and I think that in the coming decades, the idea of genres will become less of a career-defining path and more of an organizational tool."

Her pop album was released in late October and topped charts in a dozen countries, becoming the first of the year to go platinum in the U.S.

**Quoted**

**"I believe couples can stay in love for decades if they just continue to surprise each other, so why can't this love affair exist between an artist and their fans?"**

**Taylor Swift** said in her WSJ op-ed

### "People are still buying albums"

Immediately following the release of 1989, Swift made headlines again when she took her entire catalogue off the streaming service Spotify.

In her op-ed, Swift had expressed optimism about people's interest in albums, but also acknowledged that streaming — along with file-sharing and piracy — was shrinking album sales.

Despite Swift's absence on Spotify, in December, 1989 topped the very first Billboard U.S. album chart to incorporate streaming figures and song downloads as well as physical and digital sales, showing her enthusiastic optimism may not be far off the mark. AFP

Gossip

## NED EHRBAR

### METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Johnny Depp ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

# Depp goes straight to the art of naked Duchess Kate

Things could get awkward if Prince William and Kate Middleton ever have a run-in with Johnny Depp. The Pirates of the Caribbean star splashed out more than $100,000 for a pair of pieces by street artist Pegasus featuring a naked Middleton. One, which gained notoriety when Pegasus spray-painted it on a wall in North London, features Kate cradling her pregnant stomach with a crown perched atop it, the logo for HBO series Game of Thrones stencilled underneath. Depp commissioned a second nude Middleton.

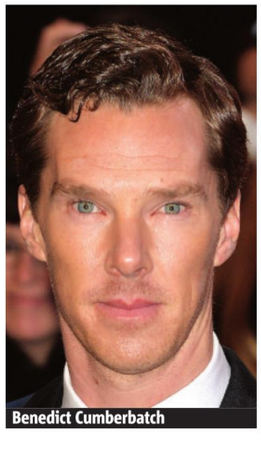
"I knew Johnny was coming and wanted the two Kate Middleton works," Pegasus' manager, Leonard Villa, tells InTouch Weekly. "He was extremely charming and immediately bought the painting and put down an offer for the second one." In addition to a double dose of the naked Duchess, Depp spent another $40,000 on a Pegasus portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, though one can only hope she's more clothed than her granddaughter-in-law.

## Fan-fickle Benedict's sex talk stirs the plots

While debating the differences between his beloved Sherlock character and the main alien on Doctor Who on Chris Hardwicke's Nerdist podcast, Benedict Cumberbatch used a few choice words sure to get the fan-fiction writers out there all hot and bothered.

"He talks fast and is clever. That is literally the only bracket they share," Cumberbatch says of the two iconic British characters. "They've got different dress senses, different taste in the sex of their partners …" And there it is.

While Cumberbatch more innocently meant that Holmes is always aided by a male Dr. Watson (except on the U.S. version, Elementary), Doctor Who more commonly keeps a female assistant,



Benedict Cumberbatch

though not always. Still, feel free to let your imagination run away with you.

## Chris Rock frickin' loves Leo's brio

Leonardo DiCaprio

Chris Rock has been on something of a tear lately, making some pointed and perfectly worded observations about Hollywood, race issues in America and the like. But it's not all criticism for Rock. There are few things he has genuine appreciation for, like Leonardo DiCaprio's lifestyle. As Rock tells Howard Stern during an interview: "I love the guy. He enjoys himself. If he's not doing a movie, he's 40 pounds more, with a fine motherf—er. With a beard and model. F— y'all. I'm eating cheeseburgers and f—ing fine bitches." The American dream, that.

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Ricardo is a Canadian chef, television host and author on a mission: To unite people through the pleasure of food. Discover his delicious and simple recipes every Friday — just in time for the weekend

# It's beginning to taste a lot like Christmas

## Chocolate-Coated Marshmallow Cookies. Switch those tired gingerbreads for something more fun

RICARDO COOKS
Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

This recipe makes 30 cookies. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

### Ingredients

**Shortbread Cookies**
- 3/4 cup (105 g) unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup (53 g) sugar
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 cup (57 g) cold unsalted butter, diced
- 1 egg
- 1/2 tsp (2 1/2 ml) vanilla extract

**Marshmallow**
- 1 tbsp powdered gelatin
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) water
- 1/2 cup (105 g) sugar
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) light corn syrup
- 1/2 tsp (2 1/2 ml) vanilla extract

**Chocolate Coating**
- 8 oz (225 g) dark chocolate, chopped

### Shortbread Cookies

**1.** In food processor, combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Add butter and pulse until mix is grainy. Add egg and vanilla. Pulse again until dough just begins to form. Shape into a disc with hands and cover with plastic wrap. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

**2.** With rack in middle position, preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Line baking sheet with parchment paper.

**3.** On floured work surface, roll out dough to about 1/8-inch (3 mm) thick. Cut 30 cookies using a 1 3/4-inch (4.5 cm) round cookie cutter. Place the cookies on the baking sheet. Bake 10 minutes or until lightly browned. Let cool.

### Marshmallow

**1.** In saucepan, sprinkle gelatin over water and let bloom 5 minutes. Add sugar. Melt over low heat, stirring until the sugar and gelatin have dissolved.

**2.** Pour into bowl. Add corn syrup and vanilla and beat with an electric mixer until soft peaks form, about 10 minutes.

**3.** With pastry bag fitted with a 3/4-inch (2 cm) diameter plain, and filled with marshmallow, top each cookie with dome of marshmallow. Let cool for 30 minutes at room temperature.

### Chocolate Coating

**1.** In a bowl in microwave, melt 5 oz (140 g) chocolate. Remove and add remaining chocolate. Stir until smooth. If necessary, microwave for a few more seconds if chocolate does not melt. Be careful not to overheat the chocolate.

**2.** Dip cooled cookies, marshmallow side down, in the chocolate, flip and remove from the chocolate with a fork. Shake to remove any excess chocolate.

**3.** Place cookies on baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Refrigerate 30 minutes. Serve at room temperature. FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S ENGLISH EDITION, WHICH LAUNCHED THIS SEPTEMBER!

Liquid Assets

## Bringing back bubbly

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Today's my birthday, so I thought I'd get a jump on New Year's Eve by talking champagne this week.

Unfortunately, the popularity of high-end fizz has seen better days.

For the average consumer, the proliferation of decent sparkling wine with a Champagne sensibility (and much cheaper price) from regions around the world has all but relegated the real stuff to special occasions.

The rise of prosecco, Italy's lightly effervescent sparkler, has had the biggest impact. Recent industry reports are that prosecco has surpassed champagne sales in North America for the first time.

That said, the region of Champagne in northern France is still the benchmark when it comes to infusing booze with bubbles. Non-vintage bubbly offers the best value, with Piper-Heidsieck Brut ($54.95 - $64.99) showing off classic nutty/toasty aromas with an edge of bright citrus that ripples across the palate.

Fun fact: Champagne loves food, especially anything fat and salty. PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

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metro HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE 2014

# Grade A gifts for teachers

**Pop quiz.** Gift class is now in session — first test, what to buy the teacher in your life

YLVA VAN BUUREN
For Metro

Looking to pick up something special for your children's teacher?

A gift is a wonderful way to show appreciation for the important part that the teacher plays in their lives — and it's a great way to teach children that giving is an important part of the holidays, too. These fun and practical ideas are sure to get an A+.

**Scent test**
Wrap up scented soaps for your favourite teacher. Floral grapefruit triple-milled soaps, $12.99, at HomeSense, homesense.ca.

**Not sweet enough**
Chocolate is one of teachers' favourite gifts to receive, and this simple gift idea is one you can put together or buy prepared ... hot chocolate in a jar. Toffee fudge hot chocolate in Mason jar, $9.99, at Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca.

**Light thinking**
Your teacher will appreciate this long-lasting candle, which will fill the air with a delightful aroma. This is the perfect gift to wrap up for the teacher to take home. Boxed scented amber candle, $24.99, at HomeSense, homesense.ca.

**Chocolate lessons**
Belgium is home to some of the best chocolate in the world ... these cookies are delicious proof. Sensations Belgium biscuits collection, $7.99, at Sobeys, sobeys.com.

**Coffee break**
Dishwasher and microwave safe, this tall porcelain latte mug is a perfect staff kitchen addition. You can sweeten this gift by filling it with jelly beans or your teacher's favourite candies. H2K tall latte mug, $2.99/each, at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

**Hand therapy**
Holding chalk and writing on a chalkboard can cause hand stiffness ... these fun and colourful rubber balls are designed to increase flexibility and relieve joint pain. Restore hand therapy kit contains three two-inch round rubber balls, $14.99, at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

**Apple of my eye**
Here's an extra special apple for your teacher. Wrap up one of these specialty caramel apples for a sweet and creative gift. Caramel Apples, $8.99 to $12.99, at Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, rockychoc.com.

**Time out**
When kids head outside for recess, teachers often head to the staff room for a time out, too ... and a cup of tea.

Premium tinned teas, $4.99/each and porcelain tea cup and saucer, $6.99, both at Winners, winners.ca.

**Surprise**
Everyone loves surprises ... crackers contains a mini lip gloss and eye shadow from Quo Cosmetics. Quo Christmas crackers, 3/pack, $15, at Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca.

**Happy owl-idays**
Festive holiday mug is for the smartest teacher in the world. $12, at Indigo, indigo.ca.

**Take note**
This red Coptic journal will make the teacher happy — it's practical and pretty. $14, at Indigo, indigo.ca.

**Pretzel logic**
Everyone will love these bite-sized pretzels dipped in peppermint-flavoured white chocolate. Happy holidays. Peppermint pretzel frost bites, $12, at Indigo, indigo.ca.

**Biscotti**
Satisfy a teacher's sweet tooth. These traditional cookies come in a variety of flavours and are sure to satisfy the palate of even the strictest teacher. Pick up homemade biscotti at your favourite bakery or local supermarket.

**13 shopping days left**

FOR MORE HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS, VISIT HOLIDAY.METRONEWS.CA

## 5 Teacher Movies

**Wrap up one of these DVD movies for your teacher.**

- **Dead Poet's Society.** An English teacher (Robin Williams) inspires students through his teaching of poetry.
- **To Sir, With Love.** An idealistic engineer-turned teacher in a rowdy East End London school learns how to win students' trust and respect.
- **School of Rock.** A struggling rock musician becomes a substitute teacher at a prep school — and changes lives.
- **Mr. Holland's Opus.** The entertaining 30-year career life of music teacher Mr. Holland.
- **Bad Teacher.** A light-hearted story about lessons learned by a lazy, incompetent teacher who teaches just for the money.

# High-tech solutions

**Life-simplifying.** If someone on your list has everything, these gifts are a no-brainer

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Still searching for a gift for the hard-to-buy-for person on your list? Here are some unique gadgets for those who seem to have just about everything.

### Oral-B Smartseries Toothbrush
$199.99

This high-tech toothbrush connects to your smartphone via Bluetooth to gather personal brushing data. Brushing too hard? Sensors will notify you and adjust the speed of the brush to ensure you don't harm your gums. The toothbrush also keeps you entertained while brushing by showing you top news stories and weather updates so you continue to brush for the optimal time. Works with Android and iOS devices.

### Tile
$20

Never lose your keys again. The small plastic tag can be attached to your car keys, television remote, or other device in your home. Once paired with your smartphone, it will send out a silent beacon, notifying you where it is. Tile is small enough to be placed almost anywhere, even inside a wallet or purse.

### Sony SRS-X7 Speaker
$299.99

You don't have to give up sound quality for portability. Stream songs from your favourite audio device via Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, and Airplay, or listen to them via the audio jack. A hidden USB port allows you to charge your smartphone or tablet while you listen to your favourite tunes. A single charge will give six hours of playback.

### Moto 360 Smartwatch
$279

Easily one of the most attractive and stylish smartwatches on the market. Once paired with your Android smartphone, the Moto 360 will notify you of incoming email, texts, and social media alerts without you having to look at your phone. You can even respond by using voice control. The built-in heart rate monitor and pedometer is ideal for those who live a healthy lifestyle.

### Impossible Instant Lab Photo Printer
$199 US

Turn your iPhone photos into Polaroid-style prints. Download the app, place your iPhone on top of the device, and watch as your digital photos are transformed into instant analog prints in an instant.

### Philips Hue connected Bulb Starter Pack
$199.95

Change the look and feel of any room in your home with these unique colour-changing bulbs. Each bulb communicates with your iPhone or iPad.

*Left to right: Sony SRS-X7 Speaker, $299.99; Moto 360 Smartwatch, $279; Tile, $20; Oral-B Smartseries Toothbrush, $199.99; Philips Hue connected Bulb Starter Pack, $199.95; Impossible Instant Lab Photo Printer, $199 US.*

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# Holiday PICKS

Local treasures sure to excite one and all this holiday season.

## Skin Ceuticals® Gift Set

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## DJI Phantom 2 Vision+ V.2 Holiday Pack

This drone is simple to set up and super easy to fly, making it a aerial filmmaking system for everyone. Now you can shoot fully stabilized video from the sky, right out of the box. **$1,549.99 at The Camera Store 802 11th Ave SW PH 403.234.9935**

## Zeiss 10x42 Terra ED Binoculars

These Zeiss binoculars feature an attractive, modern design and are exceptionally compact and robust. **$399.99 at The Camera Store 802 11th Ave SW PH 403.234.9935**

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# Apps fit for the jolly old man

**Santa's helper.** Use these tools to keep on top of things this holiday

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Did you buy all your presents? Are you on budget? Do you know what you are going to cook for Christmas dinner? Prepare for the holidays with a little help from your tablet and smartphone. Here are the apps you need to make sure you stay on top of things this holiday season:

### The Christmas List, $1.99
iOS

This app may be the only one you need to get ready for the holidays. Track the gifts you need to purchase, who they are for, and your budgets all within this one app. You can also keep track of the status of each gift, whether they are shipped, wrapped, or received. In case you are forgetful, there is even a countdown for the number of shopping days left.

### Canada Post, free
iOS, Android

If you ship presents or parcels, you will find this app useful. Find a post office, learn shipping rates and track parcels leading up to the holidays. The app also lets you create customized stamps from the photos you have on your smartphone or tablet.

### How to Cook Everything, $9.99
iOS

Were you strong-armed into making holiday dinner for the family. But the problem is you have never cooked a turkey before. Or a ham. Not even a chicken. Problem solved with this handy app. There are more than 2,000 recipes, plus 400 step-by-step illustrated cooking guides for making the most popular holiday dishes. If that's not enough, the built-in shopping list will ensure you aren't running to the store at the last moment because you forgot an important ingredient.

### Red Stamp, free
iOS

Put some creativity on your Christmas cards this year. Upload your favourite photo, then add captions to create the perfect greeting card. Once you have finished designing your card, you can either email it to friends, or have the card professionally printed and sent out to your friends and family, all from within the app itself.

### Secret Santa Generator by gjsalot, free
iOS, Android

An office tradition you either love or hate. Secret Santa gift exchanges can be a pain to set up, so why not let an app do the work for you. Select participants from your contact list on your smartphone, then submit them to the app, which will randomly match people for the gift exchange. The app then emails everyone with the name of the person they need to buy for. This also works well for family gift exchanges.

*Left to right: Secret Santa Generator; Red Stamp; Canada Post.*

Capture the holiday fun with a Nikon D750 digital SLR.

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# Gift ideas for the foodie in your life

**In the kitchen.** Go big — why not get them something that's been on their wish list for years

RICK MCGINNIS
For Metro

Buying a gift for a foodie isn't terribly different from trying to find a Christmas present for your rich friend or relative — it's not what to get them, but what they don't have that's the problem.

For most foodies, eating out isn't nearly as much fun as eating in, and, as a result, their kitchens are usually stuffed to bursting with double boilers and mandolins and fish poachers.

The best option is to go big — to buy them that high-end item that's been on their wish list for years. Right now, that would probably be a sous vide. The tide has finally receded on the whole molecular gastronomy craze, but it's left behind a few vital techniques, prime among which is cooking with a sous vide — sealing meat or fish in a vacuum bag and immersing it in a bath of hot water, maintained at a constant but relatively low temperature and circulated for a long time.

The Rolls Royce of sous vide machines is the **Polyscience Professional Immersion Circulator**, which clamps on to the side of your stock pot or deep tray and maintains up to eight gallons of water at a perfectly steady temperature for hours. It's exclusive to Williams-Sonoma and sells for $795.95 US on its website.

A more budget-oriented sous vide machine is the **Caso Sous Vide Center**, which looks like a bread maker and does the same job as the Polyscience in a smaller package tailored for family meals and not a full restaurant. It's available for as little as $369 at cedarlaneculinary.ca, which also offers a sous vide package that includes a vacuum sealer, two rolls of vacuum bags and a cookbook for $469.

Another thing about foodies is that they can never have too many cookbooks, and one of the bestsellers of the season is **Heritage by Sean Brock**, the Charleston, S.C.-based chef that chef and TV personality Anthony Bourdain called "one of the most important chefs in America."

Beautifully illustrated with photos of food, produce and Brock's hometown, it includes recipes for everything from Hoppin' John — that most essential of southern comfort foods — to more ambitious dishes like chilled fennel bisque with citrus-cured scallops and almond oil. ($24 at amazon.ca.)

People have rediscovered their ovens lately as well — it must be the long winters — so your foodie friends might want to start upgrading their battered old tins and pans with something really nice, like a set of **Le Creuset bakeware**. Available in a range of colours, this revered line of French cookware brings a welcome note of Julia Child into any lab-like, stainless steel-filled modern kitchen.

Another piece of kitchenware undergoing a renaissance is the flat griddle, which requires a sympathetic cooktop and a bit of storage space, but will let you sear, sauté and fry more than one ingredient at a time. Griddles that straddle two burners on a stove are the most useful, and are made by everyone from Calphalon to Le Creuset to Lodge. **All-Clad's double-burner griddle** is nice and heavy, and available from the Bay for $180. If you don't have a stove that happily makes space for one, All-Clad also makes a **standalone electric model with a drip pan**, $360 at the Bay.

Finally, it's nice to have something to cook. The paleo diet has put proteins at the centre of plates, but instead of big slabs of meat, smart cooks are setting smaller cuts on top of beds of legumes to showcase two kinds of protein. U.S. food website markethallfoods.com features a fine range of dried beans, from a bag of **Rancho Gordo's flageolet beans** ($8.50 US) to **black valentine beans from Community Grains** ($7 US) to **fine French puy lentils** ($13 US). Stuff a few of these into stockings or a gift box with baking dishes or saucepans and point foodie friends toward the kitchen.

*All-Clad's electric griddle, $360 at the Hudson Bay Company, thebay.com*

*Caso Sous Vide Center, from $369 at Cedarlane Culinary, cedarlaneculinary.ca*

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# Feast on these perfect pairings

**LIQUID ASSETS**
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Even if you know your way around a wine glass, finding that perfect bottle to pour at your holiday feast can still be as frustrating as trying to catch Santa coming down the chimney.

This time of year my food and wine pairing advice is to see the big picture. Look beyond what you think will be the focal point of the meal and consider how all those tasty seasonal side dishes and trimmings will mingle with the main course.

To help make your Christmas dinner merry, I have chosen some popular holiday entrées and foolproof wines to match.

## PRIME RIB ROAST

This new year's staple is a trendy alternative to turkey on Dec. 25. With fewer sides to consider, the focus becomes the meat in your mouth. Reach for a bottle of muscular Cabernet Sauvignon, a Merlot-led French Bordeaux blend or an Argentinean Malbec.

**J. Lohr 2012 Seven Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon (California, $21.95-$25.99):** Rich and gutsy with ample depth and a mouthful of personality.

**Christian Moueix 2009 Merlot (France, $16.95-$21.99):** Super smooth with layers of cassis and cherry.

**Catena Zapata 2012 Catena Malbec (Argentina, $18.45-$22.99):** A meat lover's red with up-front black fruit and a backbone of peppery spice.

## HAM

Lightly seasoned when served much of the year, come the holidays this little piggy gets its sweet and spicy glaze on. Keep your wine choice light, fruit-forward and not too boozy. Something slightly sugary like a white made with the ever-versatile Riesling or a Moscato would work like a charm, as would a refreshing Pinot Grigio. For a red, it's Pinot Noir time again.

**Voga 2013 Moscato Frizzante (Italy, $14.65-$16.99):** Soft, plush and light on alcohol with just a touch of creamy effervescence.

**Santa Margherita 2013 Pinot Grigio (Italy, $17.95-$21.49):** This Grigio's heftier citrus edge will work wonders if your ham is honey-glazed.

## TURKEY

Like Beyoncé at the Grammy awards, the big bird travels with a substantial entourage. Lacklustre served by his lonesome, Tom turkey begs to be draped with gravy and share a plate with stuffing, veggies and cranberry sauce so he can shine.

Look for wines with bright fruit and acidity, while avoiding those bone-dry or oaky. Think Riesling and Sauvignon blanc in whites and Pinot noir, Gamay and French Rhône blends in reds.

**Relax 2013 Riesling (Germany, $11.95-$14.49):** An off-dry Riesling with a light backbone of sugar that's a perfect foil for any of your sweeter sides.

**Kim Crawford 2013 Sauvignon blanc (New Zealand, $19.95-$22.99):** Loads of gooseberry and bright green fruit with a zesty finish.

**Belle Glos 2013 Meiomi Pinot noir (California, $26.95-$29.99):** Its thick, lip-smacking, berry-laden body works magic with a cornucopia of eatables, especially the earthiness of mushroom-themed dressing.

**Louis Jadot 2012 Beaujolais-Villages (France, $18.95-$21.79):** Gamay-based with a soft, fleshy flavour trail that really comes alive when given a slight chill.

Look at the big picture when pairing food and wine. SHUTTERSTOCK

## DUCK/GOOSE

Though a little Charles Dickens, both duck and goose make for a retro banquet. Their darker meat calls for a robust red with either brawny fruit character — such as a Zinfandel.

**Ravenswood 2012 Vintners Series Old Vine Zinfandel (California, $17.95-$19.99):** Plum, chocolate and a bushel of black fruit all supported by subtle oak.

**Campo Viejo 2008 Rioja Reserva (Spain, $17.95-$22.99):** Old-school elegance packed with dark cherry, cedar and exotic spice.

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Stanley Click N Connect Toolbox, $39.99, at Rona, rona.ca.

Men's High Performance Synthetic Leather Work Gloves, $11.98, at Lowes, lowes.ca.

Gladiator Adjustable Height 6-foot Bamboo Workbench, $579.99, Gladiator GarageWorks, gladiatorgarageworks.ca.

Gladiator Premier Modular GearBox, $469.99, at Gladiator GarageWorks, gladiatorgarageworks.ca.

DeWalt 52-inch Tool Chest and Cabinet, $1,099.99, at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Mastercraft Performance Touch Work Gloves, $24.99, at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Heavy Duty Driving Multi-Screwdriver, $11.98, at Lowes, lowes.ca.

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING

# HELPING ALLEVIATE HUNGER IN THE CITY

One of the Calgary Food Bank's largest food and fundraising campaigns is under way, and it's needed now more than ever.

Demand for food donations is 75 per cent higher during the holiday season, which is why it's so important to raise food and funds during the 29th annual holiday season food drive this month, according to Calgary Food Bank CEO James McAra.

"Calgarians know the value of helping their neighbours, especially in times of crisis from either layoffs or illness to replacing food lost due to fridge power losses during September's snowstorm or downtown electrical fire," he says.

The food drive wouldn't be possible without the help of CBC Calgary and Suncor Energy, with Suncor Energy donating $50,000 towards the $1-million goal to kick off the campaign.

"The donations collected through this campaign not only help to make the holidays a little brighter, they also provide support to those struggling with hunger throughout the year," says Cathy Glover, director, community investment, Suncor. "We encourage Calgarians to help those in need by making a donation to the Calgary Food Bank. Together we can help create a Calgary without hunger."

SHUTTERSTOCK

Since its inception, the CBC Calgary Suncor Energy Food Bank Drive has raised more than $13 million. It runs until Dec. 24. For more information, visit calgaryfoodbank.com.

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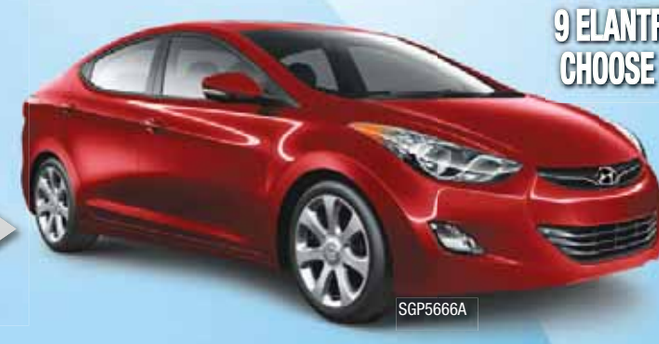


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# Marsh award goes to limit-pushing sledder

**Kaillie Humphries.** Back-to-back Olympic gold-medal winner named Canada's top athlete for 2014

Kaillie Humphries and brakewoman Heather Moyse won their second bobsled gold medal as a team in Sochi. LOIC VENANCE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Kaillie Humphries didn't have much time to celebrate.

Moments after learning she had won the 2014 Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada's top athlete, the 29-year-old bobsled pilot was off to the track for her final practice session ahead of this weekend's season-opening World Cup race.

"Trying to be focused on both of these runs today was probably one of my biggest challenges I've had so far this year," Humphries said Thursday from Lake Placid, N.Y. "It's such an amazing honour and I'm so, so excited to be amongst sport royalty."

The first bobsledder to win the Lou Marsh Trophy, Humphries became the first female in her sport to win back-to-back Olympic gold when she captured her second title in Sochi.

Humphries also carried Canada's flag along with brakewoman Heather Moyse into the closing ceremonies in Russia.

"Most of the time you see hockey or football, you see a lot of the top sports (win the award)," said Humphries, who also won her second World Cup title in 2014. "So to be the one to represent a not-as-popular sport is a pretty big honour."

Women's tennis player Eugenie Bouchard, men's tennis player Milos Raonic, Los Angeles Kings defenceman Drew Doughty and lacrosse star Johnny Powless were the other finalists. Calgary Stampeders running back Jon Cornish won the award last year.

Along with her two Olympic gold medals, Humphries has captured 28 World Cup medals and seven world championship medals.

Despite that long list of accomplishments, Humphries said she was surprised to win the trophy, that is named after a former Toronto Star sports editor and awarded annually to Canada's top athlete as selected by representatives of the country's top news organizations.

"When you hear the list of athletes that have won it previously you've got (Sidney) Crosby, you've got (Wayne) Gretzky, you've got Donovan Bailey — the list goes on and on," said Humphries. "When I think of myself as an athlete, sometimes it's hard to put myself in the same category as the athletes I've grown up watching or knowing about.

"It's shocking for me."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**New frontier**

**Humphries, who grew up as a competitive skier, but switched sports after breaking a leg in two separate accidents, continues to push the boundaries of bobsledding.**

- She has long lobbied for the chance to race against men, and the International Bobsled and Skeleton Federation decided this year to make the four-man event gender-neutral.

TJ Brodie of the Flames controls the puck against the Sabres' Drew Stafford on Thursday in Buffalo. JEN FULLER/GETTY IMAGES

# Flames suffer loss despite heavily outshooting Sabres

Matt Moulson scored twice and Jhonas Enroth stopped 42 shots as the Buffalo Sabres beat the Calgary Flames 4-3 on Thursday night.

Zemgus Girgensons and Marcus Foligno also scored for the Sabres, while Tyler Ennis had three assists. Moulson's second goal of the game, on a pass from Ennis with 7:29 to go, broke the 3-3 tie and gave the Sabres their second straight win.

**On Thursday**

| Sabres | Flames |
|---|---|
| 4 | 3 |

Mark Giordano, Sean Monahan and David Jones scored for Calgary, which outshot Buffalo 45-19.

The Sabres have won four straight at home, and are 4-4 against the Pacific Division.

Monahan scored on a rebound at 3:14 of the third to give the Flames a 3-2 lead.

Girgensons then tied it when he took a pass through the crease from Ennis and shot into an open net at 7:59.

The Flames take on the Penguins in Pittsburgh on Friday night. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Landing Latos underlines the Marlins' intent to rule NL East

**Another big signing.** Former Cincinnati Reds ace follows Stanton as Miami steps up to 'play into October'

The Miami Marlins are serious about contending in the NL East. If signing slugger Giancarlo Stanton to a monster contract last month wasn't proof enough, a late flurry at the winter meetings sure made it clear.

Miami acquired right-hander Mat Latos from the Cincinnati Reds on Thursday morning for pitching prospect Anthony DeSclafani and minor league catcher Chad Wallach, just a short nap after landing All-Star second baseman Dee Gordon in a flashy seven-player trade with the Dodgers late Wednesday night.

"We want to build and we want to be competitive every year, and we want our team to play into October," said Mike Hill, Miami's president of baseball operations. The Reds traded away two arbitration-eligible starters in quick succession Thursday morning to help meet payroll restrictions. They also sent Alfredo Simon to the Detroit Tigers for two more youngsters, right-hander Jonathon Crawford and infielder Eugenio Suarez.

"This is it for now," Reds general manager Walt Jocketty said after a busy final morning of the winter meetings. "We got close to where we need to be — payroll-wise." The Marlins gave up their top pitching prospect, left-hander Andrew Heaney, in the deal for Gordon and right-hander Dan Haren.

Haren has indicated that he might retire rather than play for a team far from his family in Southern California, and Miami dealt their next best pitching prospect in DeSclafani to provide rotation depth.

"I think the Latos deal has really insulated us from that, so if anything happens in that direction, we still have a formidable rotation," Hill said. "And if he stays, we have the player that we wanted."

The 27-year-old is coming off an injury-plagued season. He made only 16 starts because of the knee and an injured pitching elbow, going 5-5 with a 3.25 ERA. He will help bolster a Miami rotation that will be without 2013 Rookie of the Year Jose Fernandez, recovering from a May elbow-reconstruction surgery till the middle of 2015. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Elsewhere**

**Baseball's winter meetings ended with an old-style spurt of swaps, with all-stars switching teams at a rapid pace and executives scrambling to fill roster voids.**

**Alfredo Simon, Dee Gordon, Yoenis Cespedes, Miguel Montero, Jeff Samardzija, Brandon Moss, Dan Haren and Howie Kendrick were among the all-stars dealt by the time teams headed home Thursday, and Matt Kemp and Jimmy Rollins were on the verge of switching clubs.**

The Miami Marlins acquired ace Mat Latos in a trade with the Cincinnati Reds on Thursday. DENIS POROV/GETTY IMAGES

# 'Happy' Babcock won't talk about extension

Mike Babcock's Red Wings entered Thursday in first place in the Eastern Conference (17-6-6, 40 points). BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

If a contract extension between the Red Wings and Mike Babcock is indeed imminent, it appears to be news to the Detroit head coach.

An animated Babcock addressed reporters after the Red Wings' practice Thursday, candidly shooting down a media report that surfaced last night suggesting he was about to re-sign with the Original Six NHL club.

"Guys, this is like a fantasy world," Babcock said when asked about the report.

"I'm happy here. I like the general manager, they treat me good. I don't know what else I can tell you."

Babcock is in the last year of his current contract with the Red Wings, but he said he and general manager Ken Holland decided not to discuss contract negotiations during the season to prevent such talks from becoming a distraction.

"As far as negotiation between Mike Babcock and Ken Holland, there is none," he said. "Do we ride on the plane together? Yeah. Was I out with his wife and his daughter the other night? Yeah. I think I had a glass of red wine and he had Coors Light. There's nothing more to tell.

"I'm not hiding anything, I'm not making anything up, this is just reality. So let's not do this again tomorrow."

The Red Wings have made the playoffs for nine straight seasons under Babcock, winning the Stanley Cup in 2008.

They appear to be poised for another strong season. The Red Wings entered Thursday in first place in the Eastern Conference (17-6-6, 40 points). They appear to be poised for another strong season. The Red Wings entered Thursday in first place in the Eastern Conference (17-6-6, 40 points). Babcock said the Red Wings' impressive record this year should not come as a surprise.

"If you think I'm working harder this year because I'm in the last year of my contract, it makes no difference," he said. "I grind, that's what I do. I'm a professional grinder; I love winning." THE CANADIAN PRESS

**NHL**

## Slew-footing ban for Garbutt

The NHL has suspended Dallas Stars forward Ryan Garbutt for three games for slew-footing Winnipeg Jets defenceman Dustin Byfuglien. The incident happened during Winnipeg's 5-2 win in Dallas on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Figure skating**

## Duhamel and Radford shine

Canada's Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford are poised to capture their first Grand Prix Final medal after winning the pairs short program Thursday. The pair earned a season's best overall score of 74.70 points. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Radford and Duhamel GETTY IMAGES

**NHL**

## Mumps moving around the league

The NHL is facing an unusual outbreak of the mumps. So far, about a dozen players on four teams have been diagnosed with the illness that usually strikes children.

It started in Anaheim and plagued the Ducks, who had three players affected. It then moved to the Minnesota Wild, who had five victims. Tanner Glass of the New York Rangers then came down with it and the New Jersey Devils say two players also turned up sick.

The virus is very infectious and close quarters can lead to multiple victims. It can occasionally cause complications, but most victims recover quickly. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Soccer**

## Retired Ronaldo buys into Strikers

Retired Brazilian superstar Ronaldo has joined the ownership group of the Fort Lauderdale Strikers.

Ronaldo said in a statement on Thursday that he hopes to help make the Strikers a "global powerhouse." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# McDavid optimistic about being ready

**'It should be all good.'**
Team's goal is for recovering phenom to play an exhibition game before tournament

**Quoted**

**"We want to be patient with him in order to have him at 100 per cent."**

**Canadian junior team head coach Benoit Groulx** on Connor McDavid

Star forward Connor McDavid's cast is off, he has clearance for non-contact drills and is confident he'll be ready to play in the upcoming world junior hockey championship.

Now it's just a matter of seeing how things go at the Canadian team's pre-tournament camp.

McDavid hasn't played in a game since breaking a bone in his right hand on Nov. 12. The Erie Otters forward has been skating regularly but his cast wasn't removed until this week.

The junior phenom will be examined by doctors on a regular basis and the team says it will take things day by day. But the goal is to get McDavid into at least one exhibition game before the tournament opener on Dec. 26.

"I can take full slapshots and all that, so the hand feels good," McDavid said. "The wrist is not too stiff at all. So it should be all good."

Thirty players have been invited to camp, which started with a practice in Toronto. A total of 22 players will make the final team.

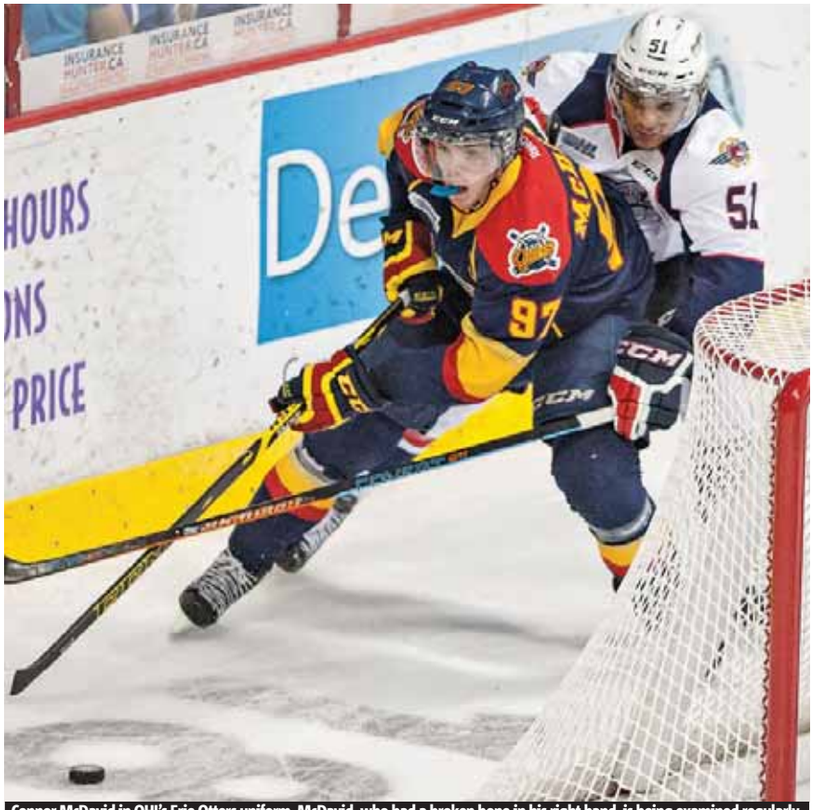
The 17-year-old McDavid, who has 51 points in 18 games this season, is an early favourite to be selected first overall in the 2015 NHL Entry Draft. His presence would provide a big boost to a squad that hasn't won gold in five years.

Head coach Benoit Groulx said it would be nice to get McDavid into an exhibition game, but it's most important to have him for competition.

"We will follow what the doctor says and how he reacts to shooting the puck and passing the puck," he said. "But right now there's no rush. We're happy to have him here and we'll see how it plays out."

Canada's first game at this year's event will be against Slovakia at Montreal's Bell Centre, where it will play group stage games, then move to Toronto for the knockout games. The tournament runs through Jan. 5.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Connor McDavid in OHL's Erie Otters uniform. McDavid, who had a broken bone in his right hand, is being examined regularly in the hope that he makes it at least into one exhibition game for Canada before the world juniors. DENIS PAJOT/GETTY IMAGES

**Return unknown**

## After lower back fractures, Newton happy to be alive

Cam Newton is not worried about when he'll return to the football field — he said he's just happy to be alive.

The Panthers quarterback returned to the team's facility Thursday, two days after a two-car accident left him with two fractures in his lower back. He did not practice and his playing status will be reevaluated next week.

"As far as when I'm coming back, who cares? I'm just thankful to have breath in my lungs," Newton said as he stood behind a podium during a seven-minute press conference.

Newton won't play Sunday against Tampa Bay, Derek Anderson will start at quarterback.

That's fine with Newton, who feels blessed to not be even more injured — or killed.

"I'm on somebody's fantasy (football) league and I think it's the man upstairs," Newton said.

Newton, who began rehab Thursday, said his back remains a little stiff, but otherwise feels great.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## First start. Unpredictable, Manziel finally gets a shot

Johnny Manziel should come with a warning sticker: Watching can be hazardous to your health.

On Sunday, the NFL will get its first extended look at Manziel, who routinely turned broken plays into touchdowns at Texas A&M and will now try to rescue the Browns' wilting playoff hopes.

As he prepares Manziel for his first career start, Cleveland offensive co-ordinator Kyle Shanahan said he's not sure what to expect from the cocksure rookie quarterback when he faces the Cincinnati Bengals.

Once Shanahan sends a well-designed play in from the sideline there's no telling what Manziel might do with it after the ball's snapped.

"Everything out here is pretty much scripted and stuff," Shanahan said following Thursday's practice.

"Who knows what will happen? I think that's why everyone enjoys watching him, and that's why I'm excited to see what he does. It'll be fun."

The Browns (7-6) need more than entertainment out of Manziel. They need him to take care of the ball, make good decisions and inject some energy into Cleveland's lifeless offence. Manziel may be the 21st quarterback to start for the Browns since 1999, but the team is discarding its sordid history at the position to see what the 22-year-old can do.

Cleveland has tapered its offence to suit Manziel, who came off the bench for deposed starter Brian Hoyer two weeks ago at Buffalo and flashed some of his Johnny Football magic by tucking the ball away, recognizing a lane many quarterbacks wouldn't have seen and darting to the end zone for a 10-yard touchdown run. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cleveland's Johnny Manziel
GETTY IMAGES

# Late birds still catch their worms

**On their own timelines.** Quartet of Blue Jays players have reached their potential after 'prime' years

ETHAN ROTBERG
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Third baseman Josh Donaldson
EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES

Right-fielder Jose Bautista
CHRIS SO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Designated hitter and first baseman Edwin Encarnacion
MITCHELL LEFF/GETTY IMAGES

Starting pitcher R.A. Dickey
CHRIS SO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

By the time legendary chicken merchant Colonel Sanders founded Kentucky Fried Chicken, he was already 65 years old. And as with the business world, baseball has its share of late bloomers.

When the Blue Jays traded a package of players to the A's for Josh Donaldson, they received yet another player that took just a little bit longer to finally develop into something special.

Toronto has seemingly cornered the market on late bloomers. And although it's difficult to purposefully target these types, the Blue Jays have benefited in multiple ways by holding shares in such players.

The general population of baseball players will see their careers, and their skills, peak around the ages of 25-27. Don't tell that to these Blue Jays.

**Josh Donaldson**

Even though he was a high draft pick, Donaldson found himself demoted to Triple-A in 2012 as a 26-year-old. By the next year, after making changes to his swing mechanics, he finally began to find success at 27. Because of the late start to his major-league career, Toronto has Donaldson for four more seasons, in his prime, before he's even eligible for free agency.

**Jose Bautista**

Bautista is known as one of baseball's greatest outliers. A player who bounced around between five teams until, at 29 years old in 2010, he exploded as one of the sport's top offensive players. After that season, Toronto inked Bautista to a below-market value, five-year, $65-million contract. In 2014, at 33 years old, Bautista continued peak production — actually improving on his 2013 offensive numbers.

**Edwin Encarnacion**

Encarnacion is a slightly different case because he showed solid power with the Cincinnati Reds earlier in his career. But after moving off third base in 2012, he took it to another level with 42 home runs as a 29-year-old. Encarnacion has sustained this production, blasting 36 and 34 home runs the last two years, respectively. Like Bautista, the lack of a high-quality track record allowed the Blue Jays to lock up Encarnacion to a below-market contract. Also like Bautista, he's a rare example of an elite power hitter — who relies heavily on bat speed — to experience a peak in his early 30s.

**R.A. Dickey**

For pitchers, a late-career surge is particularly difficult because fastball velocity will generally start to decline by a full mile per hour by age 26 — and decline steeply after 30. Dickey's career is well documented. After flaming-out in his 20s he turned to, and mastered, the knuckleball in 2010 at 35 years old. The Blue Jays can count on the veteran pitcher — who will be 40 years old during the 2015 season — knowing that standard aging curves don't apply to the knuckleballer.

Domestic violence

## Attorney files to dismiss charges against Solo

The attorney for Hope Solo is asking the court to dismiss domestic violence charges against the U.S. national team goalkeeper.

Attorney Todd Maybrown filed his request in Kirkland, Washington, Municipal Court, claiming that the victims in the case have not allowed depositions that were granted the defence. Solo was charged with two misdemeanour counts of fourth-degree domestic violence assault following an altercation with her half-sister and nephew at a party in June.

Solo has pleaded not guilty. She claimed in the documents filed Wednesday that she was defending herself against her 17-year-old nephew, who is six feet nine inches and weighs 280 pounds. She claims she was hit over the head with a broom handle.

Solo's relatives have claimed she attacked first.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## AUGMENTED REALITY

**Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.**

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

## Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

### ♈ Aries
**March 21 - April 20**
There is no need to feel threatened by someone whose power exceeds yours. According to the planets they don't see you as a rival and therefore wish you no harm.

### ♉ Taurus
**April 21 - May 21**
If you want to get ahead be less thin-skinned. The kind of people who can make things happen for you are not the kind of people who worry about whose egos they might bruise.

### ♊ Gemini
**May 22 - June 21**
You may feel worn out after the excitement of the past few days but don't switch off because there are still important things that need to be done.

### ♋ Cancer
**June 22 - July 23**
Sometimes you can be too trusting and the planets warn if you believe what a colleague tells today it will cost you. Either they're deceiving you or someone is deceiving you both.

### ♌ Leo
**July 24 - Aug. 23**
Use your time and energy wisely today. It does not matter how much work you have to get through before the weekend. Get it right the first time.

### ♍ Virgo
**Aug. 24 - Sept. 23**
Yes, there are things going on behind the scenes that you know little about . According to the planets you have nothing to fear and lots to look forward to.

### ♎ Libra
**Sept. 24 - Oct. 23**
If you find it hard to make up your mind today, ask someone you trust. Even if you disagree with them and do the exact opposite of what they suggest you'll still be doing something.

### ♏ Scorpio
**Oct. 24 - Nov. 22**
You need to tie up a number of loose ends today if you are to get the full benefit of what occurs over the weekend.

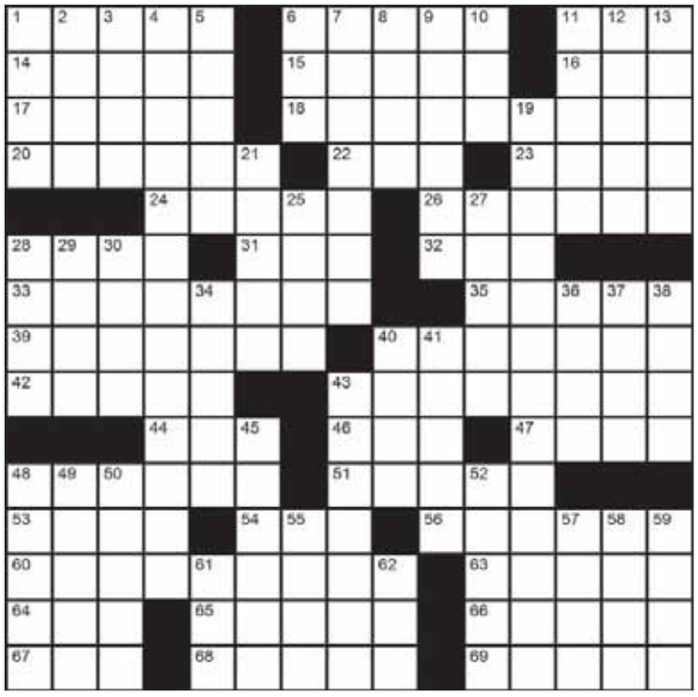
### ♐ Sagittarius
**Nov. 23 - Dec. 21**
There may be times when you think that your lucky streak has come to an end but it's not over yet. The only thing that might hold you back is if you allow negative thoughts to take root.

### ♑ Capricorn
**Dec. 22 - Jan. 20**
You may be conservative but that does not mean you cannot change your ways and if you feel that a change is necessary you must make it immediately.

### ♒ Aquarius
**Jan. 21 - Feb. 19**
You will hear something to your advantage today but because you were not supposed to know you may be reluctant to make use of it. If others were stupid enough to let it slip that's their problem, not yours.

### ♓ Pisces
**Feb. 20 - March 20**
You don't have to pretend that a task comes easy to you when it is a struggle. No one expects you to get it right the first time. Do your best and be pleased.

## Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



**Across**
1. Splash
6. Tolerate
11. Comedian Louis, et al.
14. Jeweller's eye piece
15. Discourage
16. At the age of, in Latin [abbr.]
17. Eight-based
18. "First Blood" (1982) role: 2 wds.
20. Sarajevo's locale
22. Hot drink
23. Scornful look
24. "A merry heart __ good like a medicine..." - Proverbs
26. Bequest
28. Pet shelter gr.
31. Old French coin
32. Swearing-in words
33. Inuit sled
35. Harry Potter: Severus' surname
39. Nut kind
40. Lawn sport
42. Judge's gig
43. Frank Zappa's actress/writer daughter: 2 wds.
44. Mr. Bean, et al.
46. Swerve
47. "__ _ Wonderful Life" (1946)
48. Gutsy
51. Harsh
53. Succulent plant
54. Dunk
56. Celebrity chef Nigella
60. Town in Fraser Canyon in British Columbia; or, Cheers of "Cheers": 2 wds.
63. Crooner Pat
64. Fair-hiring letters
65. Apply another cold pack
66. Ontario: __ Peninsula
67. '70s records
68. "Two If __ __" (1996)
69. Stagnates

**Down**
1. Neatnik opposite
2. Little Eva's "The __-Motion"
3. Loopholes
4. Soul Boys of the Western World is the name of the new documentary film, as well as upcoming 2015 tour, of this British band: 2 wds.
5. Racecar driver Mr. Castroneves
6. Li'l modifier
7. Extinct culture of Newfoundland
8. _, __ Jury (Mickey Spillane novel)
9. 2015 Yukon __ (GMC vehicle)
10. Bungle
11. "Along __ _ Spider" (2001)
12. 'Quebec' part of Quebec City as it was known
13. Written work
19. The variant spelling for #12-Down's answer is an __ __ meaning 'narrowing of the river'
21. Pantheon of Norse gods
25. "Hop __ __!" (Move!)
27. Alberta town
28. House size meas.: 2 wds.
29. Match
30. Gladiator's 951
34. Recounts
36. Family member
37. Shar-__ (Some dogs)
38. Singer Ms. James
40. Wintertime garment
41. Spur's small spiked wheel
43. Social networking site
45. Locale on Cape Breton Island
48. Matte __ (Toronto-born television host)
49. "That threw me for _ __!"
50. Doesn't win
52. Synagogue spiritual leader
55. Wading bird
57. Psyche
58. Formerly
59. Social pages words
61. Sphere
62. Actor Stephen

## Yesterday's Crossword

## Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

## Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

**How to play**
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 2 | | | | |
| | | 3 | 8 | | | 7 | | |
| | 6 | | 4 | | | 1 | 5 | |
| | 5 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | 1 | | | | 6 |
| | | | | | | 3 | 4 | |
| | 4 | 2 | | | 3 | | 8 | |
| | | 6 | | | 7 | 4 | | |
| | | | | 5 | | | | |

### Yesterday's Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| 6 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 2 |
| 8 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 1 |
| 5 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 8 |
| 7 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 1 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| 9 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

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